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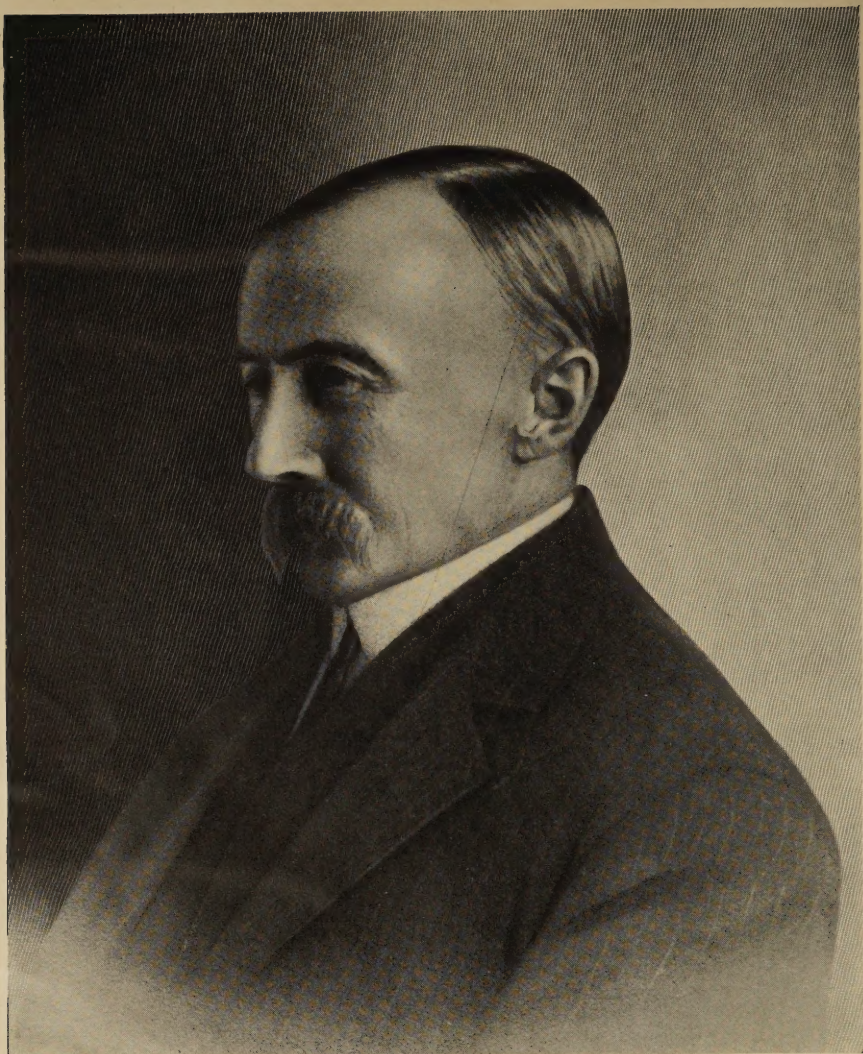












*J. H. Wheeler*

HISTORY<sup>c</sup>  
OF  
Cerro Gordo County  
IOWA

From Materials in the Public Archives, the Iowa  
Historical Society's Collection, the Newspapers and Data of  
Personal Interviews; also containing Sketches of  
Representative Citizens.

COMPILED AND EDITED

BY

J. H. WHEELER

Assisted by an Advisory and Editorial Board of  
representative citizens.

ILLUSTRATED

VOL. I.

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY  
CHICAGO-NEW YORK

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## PREFACE

There will be those who will expect a history of Cerro Gordo county to be something in the nature of a commercial write-up or an industrial expository. To these people there must come disappointment, for I have attempted the accomplishment of none of these things.

Again, in the case of not a few county histories, fully one-half of the space has been taken up with epitomized histories of the United States and the state of Iowa, in many cases including the publication of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States, together with the Organic Act and the Constitution of the State of Iowa. I have dispensed with those hackneyed features of the conventional county history, and, with the time and the opportunity at my command, have endeavored to write a real history which relates closely to county affairs.

In writing and compiling a history of Cerro Gordo county, I have, as nearly as possible, confined myself to an historical account of the land and its people. I have gone to some extent into the geologic history and present geological conditions of the country, for the reason that there is no more potent factor in shaping the destinies and determining the character of a people than the geology of the country they inhabit. The deductions concerning geologic time-periods in Cerro Gordo county are my own.

As Genesis is the most important book in the Bible, so the beginnings of things are the most important from a historical standpoint in a history of Cerro Gordo county. The epoch of its settlement will always remain its greatest epoch. The period of settlement has therefore been treated in greater detail than later periods.

The account of the early settlement of the county by H. G. Parker has been retained in the present history, not because it is a complete account, but because it is not only well written, but is the narrative of an eye-witness and contemporary of the things he describes.

The chapter on "Indian Troubles," by Judge Rosecrans, has been made use of because no better account of those troubles could

have been written, and because it is doubtful if any paraphrase could have been made that would be as satisfactory as the original.

The period of the Civil war constituted an important and long to be remembered epoch in the history of Cerro Gordo and its people, and an entire chapter has not been thought too much to be devoted to that interesting and important subject.

By reason of its local importance, a relatively large amount of space has been given to the history of Mason City, and for a similar reason the history of Clear Lake is also given in somewhat greater detail than is the case with other localities in the county.

I was fortunate in securing the services of John Cliggitt in the preparation of the chapter devoted to a history of the "Bench and Bar" of the county. Mr. Cliggitt is peculiarly well fitted for such a work, not only because of his erudition and experience as a writer, but also because of his intimate acquaintance with our courts, with the judges who have presided on the bench and the lawyers who have practiced at our bar for more than a generation.

The very important economic subject of "Co-operation," I left to the superior knowledge of Thomas McManus for treatment. That he has done both himself and the subject justice, all will agree.

That my effort as a whole, falls far short of my desire, I beg to assure all possible readers. That the work will have critics goes without saying. That much of the criticism will be both adverse and just, I know, for I myself am one of my own critics and know more of the shortcomings of my work than anyone else.

J. H. WHEELER,

Mason City, Iowa, November 20, 1910.

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## CERRO GORDO

There lieth a land far off in the west,  
Bright and fair from windward to lee.  
The Pioneer's quest in the dim, long ago,  
This land many leagues from the sea.

'Tis a land of the blest, with a summer-day clime,  
It's people are happy and free.  
The men are all brave, the women are fair,  
In this land far off from the sea.

Crystal its waters and azure its skies,  
And green is the land as can be.  
Woodland and meadow and grainland are fair,  
In this land many leagues from the sea.

A lake lies astrand in this beautiful land,  
Blue and deep as Old Galilee.  
It's beauty is famed in lands that doth lie  
League on league away by the sea.

The beautiful Lime by forest and farm,  
And many a fair flowered lea,  
Bears on its bosom the blue of the sky,  
Many leagues, to the blue of the sea.

Over rock, shell and pebble, through long, shallow pool,  
Past bank, bush and tall, lonely tree,  
The Shell Rock sings soft the song of the North,  
On its way to the far Southern sea.

The Beaver and Coldwater, down in the south,  
Where clover bloom lureth the bee,  
Bear lilies and perfume, a gift to the gods  
That dwell leagues away by the sea.

A city there stands in this land of the blest;  
'Tis a beautiful city to me,  
"Queen of the Midland," men call her who dwell  
In her realm far off from the sea.

# PART I.





## CHAPTER I.

### LOCATION AND NATURAL FEATURES.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY—FLORA AND FAUNA—MINERAL SYSTEM—THE AGE OF ICE—CERRO GORDO A PRODUCT OF THE GLACIERS—CLIMATE AND TOPOGRAPHY BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GLACIERS—THE CAUSE OF THE AGE OF ICE—THE CHANGE FROM PRE-GLACIAL TO GLACIAL CONDITIONS—APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE ICE AGE—THE FOUR GLACIAL PERIODS—THE AGE OF THE GLACIAL EPOCH IN CERRO GORDO REDUCED FROM TIME PERIODS TO YEARS.

Cerro Gordo county is located about midway between the eastern and western boundaries of the state and in the second tier of counties from the state line of Minnesota. It is bounded on the north by Worth county, on the west by Hancock, on the south by Franklin and on the east by Floyd and Mitchell. It is twenty-four miles square and contains 368,480 acres. It contains sixteen congressional townships which are also organized as civil townships. Beginning at the north-eastern corner of the county, the townships by their names follow: Falls, Lime Creek, Lincoln, Grant, Clear Lake, Lake, Mason, Portland, Owen, Bath, Mt. Vernon, Union, Grimes, Pleasant Valley, Geneseo and Dougherty.

While lacking in the scenic effects obtained in some of the northeastern counties of the state, Cerro Gordo county possesses many beautiful landscapes and has, on the whole, a more varied and pleasing diversity of surface than the average of the prairie counties of the Middle West. The county is well watered and in certain parts the natural drainage is excellent, but in far the greater part of the county artificial drainage has been resorted to with beneficial results.

The geographical location of Cerro Gordo county precludes the existence of large rivers within its borders. The Shell Rock

and the Lime are the largest streams, but they are of inconsiderable size when compared with the larger rivers of the state. The Shell Rock, a tributary of the Cedar, rises in Minnesota and flows in a southeasterly direction through Falls township. It is a rapid stream and is undoubtedly capable of furnishing a large amount of waterpower for manufacturing and other purposes. By far the greater part of this potential waterpower is allowed to go to waste.

While considered a tributary of the Shell Rock, the Lime is by far the most important stream in the county. It enters the county near its northwest corner and flows in a generally southeasterly course through the townships of Lincoln, Lime Creek, Mason and Portland. There is also in Lime creek a vast amount of unutilized water power. The most important of Lime creek's tributaries is Willow creek, one branch of which is the outlet of Clear Lake. In the southern part of the county are the Coldwater, the Beaver Dam and the West Fork of the Cedar. These are all small streams.

Cerro Gordo county has but one lake, situated near the western boundary and called Clear Lake, from the exceeding purity of its waters. Clear Lake is about six miles in length and from two to three in breadth, with a depth of ten to twenty-five feet. In early days it literally swarmed with fish and, despite the large numbers of fish caught each year for the past fifty years, it is still considered good fishing ground. Clear Lake is of glacial origin, dating from the retreat of the Wisconsin Ice Sheet, and is, therefore, about ten thousand years old.

While essentially a prairie county, Cerro Gordo was, at the time of its first settlement by white men, and is yet, fairly well supplied with natural timber. While burr oak is by far the most prevailing variety, there is also red and jack oak among the oaks. There are also black walnut, butternut, red and white elm, hickory, poplar, linn, hackberry, soft maple, willow and cottonwood. Of the smaller trees and shrubs there are the wild plum, crabapple, thorn, haw, cherry, grape, gooseberry, etc. Of grasses there are several varieties native to the county, of which the several varieties of slough grass, the common upland prairie grass and the bluestem or bluejoint are the most important. Of minor plants there are the various mints and worts common to this part of the state, together with ragweed, fennel, wild parsnip, rosin weed, the wild strawberry, etc. Of flowering plants there are a great variety of kinds and colors. Besides the wild rose there is the honey suckle,

the columbine, a great variety in color of phlox, pinks, sunflowers, lilies, asters, bluebells, cowslips, daisies and a great variety of early spring posies, etc., etc.

At the time of its settlement by white men, Cerro Gordo county possessed a considerable fauna, the most important among the quadrupeds being the buffalo, the deer, elk, bear and beaver. There were also mink, muskrat, skunks, squirrels, gophers, etc. The mastodon, mammoth and horse which were contemporary with early man in Cerro Gordo became extinct in prehistoric times. The fishes, insects, reptiles and mollusks are the same as in surrounding regions of North America.

By far the greater part of the mineral system, including the rocks, of Cerro Gordo county, belongs to the Devonian series. There are a few isolated outcroppings of the Carboniferous period. If the Pleistocene is in evidence it is so slight as to be negligible. The only system that is of importance, either in its extent or from an economic standpoint, is the Devonian. Ever since away back in the twilight of Cerro Gordo county history, when Randall at Mason City and Wiltfong at Shell Rock Falls produced lime by placing lime rock on burning logheaps, the production of lime has been one of the important industries of Mason City. All of the lime produced in the county comes from Devonian lime stone. The rock and clay from which the cement is made in the two giant cement plants on the banks of Calamus creek are Devonian. The blue and yellow shales from which Mason City's enormous annual output of brick and drain tile is manufactured belong to the Devonian system.

#### THE AGE OF ICE.

Cerro Gordo county, as it exists today, is practically a product of the glaciers. Had it not been for the glaciers, instead of being, as it is now, an almost level prairie country, scantily supplied with natural timber, with a soil of black sandy loam, with its streams, as they are now in several townships, without defined channels, their waters seeping through wide almost flat sloughs and swales, and, in other parts, the country covered with rounded hills, interspersed with "kettle holes," bogs, marshes and imperfect peat beds, the country would have a clayey soil, be well wooded and its surface would be exceedingly rough, a succession of ridges, hollows and ravines. There would be no summer resort at Clear Lake,

for there would be no Clear Lake, and, therefore, the Mason City and Clear Lake Interurban would never have been built. There would have been no early settlements along the Shell Rock and no Shell Rock Falls, for there would have been no Shell Rock river. Instead of there being a Lime creek, there would be a Lime river, for Lime creek would be about twice its present size. In fact so important have been the changes made by the glaciers in the topography, soil and plant life of the county that no history of it is complete that does not give some account of the Glacial Epoch and the far-reaching changes it brought about.

During the later Tertiary, the surface of what is now Cerro Gordo county was flat and marshy with an elevation but little above sea level. The climate was subtropical or at least warm temperate and the fauna and flora were very different from the fauna and flora that we know. And then came the change which closed the Tertiary and ushered in the Quarternary. The primary cause for this change was the slow but gradual uplift of the land. This uplift cooled the climate and caused the streams to cut deep and well defined channels which in some cases, gradually expanded into valleys. It was during this period of uplift that the valleys of the Lime and the Willow were cut through the solid rock and that the hilly country in parts of Portland, Owen and Dougherty was created.

And then after the passage of unnumbered centuries, after the uplift of the land had ceased, for the river gorges had reached their maximum depth before it came, there came a change in all things pertaining to the country and its climate, its flora and fauna and its general appearance, a change so wonderful that the wisest men who have made the "great change" the study of a lifetime have never been able to account for it in any manner which was even satisfactory to themselves, to say nothing of others who had not made a study of it and who were not and did not pretend to be wise men. For the hills and the valleys and the streams were gone and so were the grass and the flowers, the trees and shrubs and plants and all animal life.

Although it is mid-summer when, with our mind's eye, we first behold the land after the great change, its comparatively level surface is white with snow, many fathoms in depth and the climate is that of the interior of Greenland of the present day. The snow is so deep and has been accumulating and settling and packing for so many long years that down a few feet from the surface



it has turned to solid ice,—glacier ice. In short this beautiful country we now call Cerro Gordo county, is covered many feet in depth, with an ice cap. How deep this ice cap is we do not know, but we may feel sure that it was several hundreds of feet in depth. The white, snowy surface of the ice cap stretches away for many long frozen leagues beyond the rim of the horizon in every direction. As the ice cap pushes slowly to the south the direction of least resistance, it becomes a glacier, for a glacier is a body of land ice moving in the direction of least resistance.

And then, after the lapse of thousands of years, the climatic pendulum begins its slow, backward swing, the sunshine and the winds are warmer, the winters, as the years pass, grow milder and shorter and the summers hotter and longer until, finally, after the lapse of untold years the mighty glacier is gone and the climate is as mild as at present. The country is green again with grass and shrubs and trees and beautiful with wild flowers. Fish swim in the running streams, the birds build their nests in the trees and beside the waters and the beasts of the field once more roam about, hunted and hunting. Certainly three times, and some say four times, the glaciers came and went, creeping slowly down from the north and then slowly retreating back into the north, with long intervals of mild climate intervening between their retreat and their re-appearance.

These ages of ice are known as the Pre-Kansan, the Kansan, the Iowan and the Wisconsin. Of the length of time which has elapsed since the beginning of the Glacial Epoch in Cerro Gordo county as reckoned in years, nothing definite will ever be known. Nature writes its records with an alphabet and in a language which we cannot decipher or render into exact terms of human speech. We can only know for a certainty that they conclusively establish the truth of the general proposition that time is long, but even approximately how long, we are left to figure out with our calculations based on little more tangibility than surmise and postulation.

Of the date of the coming of the Pre-Kansan glacier, its duration or the time which elapsed between its going and the advent of the Kansan ice sheet, we know positively nothing. From the close of the Kansan to the present time, however, we have at least some data upon which to convert time periods into years. But, even here, we must trust largely to more or less reasonable assumption, to surmise and postulation. For example there is no record of any kind to indicate the duration of a glacier, for while an ice sheet lasts, nature sleeps and makes no record.

The Kansan glacier filled up the Lime creek valley, that is, formed a dam across it in section 27 of Lime Creek township and forced that stream to find a new channel. This new channel cuts through sections 27, 34 and 35 of Lime Creek township and section 2 of Mason township, a distance of something like two miles in length. Lime creek only occupied this new channel during the interval between the melting of the Kansan and the coming of the Iowan glacier. During that time the stream cut a gorge through the solid limestone rock over fifty feet in depth. At its turn the Iowan glacier choked up the mouth of the new channel and plowed open the old channel again. Restored to its old channel, Lime creek has done no rock cutting since the coming of the Iowan glacier. But the Iowan glacier created the Shell Rock river and the present channel of that stream represents the amount of rock cutting which has been done since the retreat of the Iowan ice cap. At its deepest cut in the rock, the channel of the Shell Rock is about ten feet in depth.

In other words, the amount of rock cutting in Cerro Gordo county during all of the time that has elapsed since the melting of the Iowan glacier has been ten feet as recorded by the Shell Rock, while the amount of rock cutting during the interval between the melting of the Kansan glacier and the coming of the Iowan ice cap was over fifty feet, as recorded by Lime creek in cutting its new channel in Lime Creek and Mason townships. In this comparison we, of course, get only relative time intervals. Let us see if we can convert these into years. In attempting to do this we must assume that the rate of rock cutting by the two streams was substantially the same. This we may take for granted for while Lime creek was, at that time, undoubtedly a larger stream than the Shell Rock has ever been, it had, on that account, to cut a wider channel and excavate a proportionately larger amount of rock. The rate of rock cutting must have been about the same by the two streams.

It is generally agreed among the latest geological authorities that it is at least 10,000 years since the final retreat of the Wisconsin, or latest of the glaciers, from this part of North America. Assuming that the Wisconsin glacier would require an equal period of time for its total duration and that the interval between the Wisconsin and the Iowan glaciers was at least 10,000 years, and it was probably much longer than that, we have, by a reasonable

approximation, 30,000 years as the age of the Shell Rock, as that stream dates from the melting of the Iowan glacier.

On the reasonable assumption that the total duration of the Iowan glacier was not less than 10,000 years we have 40,000 years as the length of time which has elapsed since the end of the interim between the retreat of the Kansan ice cap and the coming of the Iowan glacier. If it required a period of 30,000 years for the Shell Rock to cut a channel in the solid rock to a maximum depth of ten feet and if the process of rock cutting by the Shell Rock and Lime creek was substantially at the same rate, it follows, inasmuch as Lime creek cut a gorge through the solid rock over fifty feet in depth during the interim between the melting of the Kansan and the coming of the Iowan glacier, that this interim was five times as long as the life of the Shell Rock, or 150,000 years. Add to this 150,000 years the 40,000 years which have elapsed since the coming of the Iowan ice cap and we have 190,000 years as the time, reckoned in years, which has elapsed since the melting of the Kansan glacier. If we assume a period of 10,000 years for the duration of the Kansan glacier and a period of equal length for the interim between the Kansan and the Pre-Kansan ice cap and another 10,000 years for the duration of the Pre-Kansan glacier, we have 220,000 as the measure of time, expressed in years, since the beginning of the Glacial Epoch in Cerro Gordo county.

Prior to the coming of the glaciers Cerro Gordo county was seamed and gullied by valleys, ravines and draws with ridge and tableland between. The glaciers planed down the high places and filled up, partially or wholly, the valleys and ravines. The parts of Owen and Dougherty townships present a fair illustration, with their rough network of deep hollows and ravines, of the general appearance of the county's surface before the coming of the glaciers, while the central portions of the county, with its practically flat surface, presents typical results of glacial action. The last of the glaciers, the Wisconsin, invaded only the western third of the county. A great central lobe pushed its way down into Iowa from the north and Cerro Gordo county lay on its left or eastward flank. When this great ice sheet finally melted the evidences of its one time presence existed in what is known as the Altamont Moraine. This consists of huge heaps of detritus and the furrows ploughed by the vanished glacier. The round topped hills and long ridges represent the heaps of detritus and the earth

shoved into heaps by the moving ice, and the depressions, the kettle holes, pond holes and other depressions, of which the bed of Clear Lake is the largest, mark the deep furrows plowed and holes gouged out by the grinding, irresistable power of the glacier.



## CHAPTER II.

### THE CHAIN OF TITLE.

LAND TITLES TRACED BACK TO GOVERNMENT PATENT—THE TITLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO IOWA LAND—TWO CHAINS OF TITLE, THE AMERICAN OR INDIAN AND THE EUROPEAN OR WHITE MAN'S CHAIN OF TITLE—THE INDIAN OR AMERICAN TITLE—THE EUROPEAN TITLE.

The prudent person who purchases land in the state of Iowa or the county of Cerro Gordo requires an abstract of title from the grantor. This abstract traces an unbroken chain of title, link by link, through the succession of grantors and grantees, back to the original patent issued by that sovereign power and source of all land titles within its domain, the government of the United States. The abstract of title furnished the grantee by the grantor stops at the original patent issued by the federal government to the pioneer. As the grantor cannot convey a better title than he himself possesses, even though the grantor be the federal government itself, the very pertinent query arises. What was the nature and origin of the title which the federal government possessed and passed to the original individual patentee of the Iowa farm?

The government of the United States held the lands situated in the state of Iowa by two separate chains of title, first, the Indian or American chain of title, and, second, the European or "White Man's" chain of title.

The Indian or American chain of title runs back to and was obtained from former actual owners and possessors of the land, to wit, the Indian tribes: The Sioux, the Sacs and Foxes, the Iowas, the Pottawattamies and the Winnebagoes. The Sioux, Sacs and Foxes and the Iowas held their land in Iowa by the title of conquest and prescriptive right, based on immemorial and undisputed possession. The title to their Iowa lands held by the Winnebagoes and the Pottawattamies, was by purchase from the federal government itself. Our government obtained its Indian titles by purchase from the acknowledged lawful owners, under terms determined by formal treaties.

The following list of treaties with the various Indian tribes furnishes an abstract of the Indian or American title by which the United States held the lands of Iowa and which it passed to the pioneers by its patents:

1789.—In January, 1789, at Fort Harmar on the banks of the Muskingum river, the government of the United States, represented by General Arthur St. Clair, at the time governor of the Northwest Territory, made its first treaty with the Indian nations occupying that vast region. The tribes represented and parties to the treaty of 1789, were the Pottawattamies, Chippewas, Wyandots, Delawares, Ottawas and Sacs. The territory embracing what was afterward called Iowa was represented by two Sac chiefs.. This treaty fixed the boundaries between the tribes represented and the United States. It also contained an agreement by the tribes not to sell their lands to any person or nation except the United States. This treaty of 1789 was a recognition by the United States of the independent sovereignty of the Indian nations represented, 1, by acknowledging them as treaty-making powers; 2, by acknowledging their right to the disposal of their land; 3, by fixing definite frontiers between the United States and the other powers who were parties to the treaty.

1824.—In the year 1824 the Iowas sold their undivided interest in their Iowa lands to the United States. In the same year the Sacs and Foxes relinquished their title to that portion of the southeastern part of Iowa known as the Half Breed Tract. This tract was a portion of land set off for the use of the children of white fathers and Indian mothers.

1825.—By the treaty of August 19, 1825, the United States was empowered to establish a boundary line between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes. This line was run from the mouth of the upper Iowa river westerly to the west fork of that stream; thence up the fork to its source, thence crossing the fork of the Red Cedar river in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet river, and down that river to its junction with the Missouri river.

1830.—By the treaty of 1830, the Sacs and Foxes ceded a strip of land 20 miles wide extending along the southern side of the boundary between the confederate tribes and the Sioux, from the Mississippi river to the Des Moines river. By the same treaty the Sioux ceded a strip of land 20 miles wide for the same distance along the northern side of the boundary. This strip of territory, 40 miles wide and extending from the Mississippi to the Des Moines,

became a possession of the United States. It was known as the Neutral Ground and the tribes on either side of the line were allowed to fish and hunt on it unmolested until it was made a Winnebago reservation, and the Winnebagoes were removed to it in 1841.

At the same time of the above treaty respecting the "Neutral Ground," (July 15, 1830), the Sacs and Foxes, Western Sioux, Omahas, Iowas and Missouris sold and ceded to the United States certain lands to which they had at least a color of title.. These lands were located on the Missouri slope in the western part of the state and were defined as follows: "Beginning at the upper fork of the Des Moines river, and passing the sources of the Little Sioux and Floyd rivers, to the bank of the first creek that falls into the Big Sioux, or Calumet, on the east side; thence down said creek and the Calumet river to the Missouri river; thence down said Missouri river to the Missouri state line above the Kansas; thence along said line to the northwest corner of said state, thence to the high lands between the waters falling into the Missouri and Des Moines, passing to said high lands along the dividing ridge between the forks of the Grand river; thence along said high lands or ridge separating the waters of the Missouri from those of the Des Moines, to a point opposite the source of the Boyer river, and thence in a direct line to the upper fork of the Des Moines, the place of beginning."

It was understood that these ceded lands were to be under the control of the president of the United States but that they were to be assigned and allotted to the tribes then living thereon, or to such other tribes as the president might designate, for hunting and other purposes. For this cession the United States paid something over \$180,000.

1832.—There were two treaties with the Indians of Iowa in 1832, the first and most important was with the Sacs and Foxes. By this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a strip of land on the eastern border of Iowa fifty miles wide, from the northern boundary of Missouri to the mouth of the upper Iowa river, containing about six million acres. The western line of the purchase was parallel with the Mississippi.

In consideration of this cession the United States paid to the confederated tribes \$650,000 in specie, besides 35 beef cattle, 12 bushels of salt, 30 barrels of pork, 50 barrels of flour, and 6,000 bushels of corn, contributed to Sac and Fox widows and orphans

made by the Black Hawk war. This important cession of the Sacs and Foxes was known as the "Black Hawk Purchase."

By the treaty of 1832 with the Winnebagoes, that tribe ceded to the United States all their land lying on the east side of the Mississippi. In part consideration for this cession the Winnebagoes received that portion of Iowa known as the Neutral Ground. In addition they were paid an aggregate of \$270,000 in specie and additional \$81,000 for the support of a school.

1833.—By a treaty between the United States and the Pottawattamies in 1833, that tribe exchanged their lands lying along the west shore of Lake Michigan for five million acres of land in southwestern Iowa.

1836.—By the treaty of 1836 the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States the tract of land known as the "Keokuk Reservation" for which the federal government stipulated to pay \$30,000 and an annuity of \$10,000 for ten successive years together with other sums and debts of the Indians to various parties.

1837.—In 1837 the Sacs and Foxes made two separate treaties with the federal government. By the first of these treaties the confederate tribes ceded 1,250,000 acres lying west of and adjoining the Black Hawk Purchase. By the second treaty they ceded to the United States all their right and interest in the country lying south of the boundary line between the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, as described in the treaty of August 19, 1825, and between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, the United States paying for the same the sum of \$160,000. The Indians also gave up all claims and interests under the treaties previously made with them, for the satisfaction of which no appropriations had been made.

1842.—By the treaty of 1842, the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States all their lands west of the Mississippi to which they had any claim or title. By the terms of this treaty they were to be removed from the country at the expiration of three years, and all who remained after that time were to move at their own expense. Part of them were removed to Kansas in the fall of 1845, and the rest the spring following.

1846.—By a treaty between the federal government and the Pottawattamies that tribe exchanged their lands in Iowa for a reservation in Kansas, 30 miles square.

1851.—By a treaty with the Sioux in 1851 the Sioux surrendered their Iowa land to the government of the United States.

The foregoing list of Indian treaties between the government



of the United States and the various Indian tribes concerned, constitutes an abstract of the title obtained by the federal government from the original owners and possessors of the soil of Iowa and which it in turn passed to the individual purchaser or homesteader by patent. This is the Indian or American chain of title.

#### THE EUROPEAN CHAIN OF TITLE.

When Columbus and his companions returned home from that memorable voyage that first revealed to the people of Europe the existence of a new world, they brought back with them wondrous stories of gold and unconverted heathen in the beautiful summer land they had found beyond the western sea. The hope for trade, the lust of gold, the greed for power, the desire to convert the heathen, or, in some cases, a combination of these motives led the more ambitious of the European potentates to early take steps to secure for themselves a lion's share of the newly discovered paradise across the Atlantic.

*Grant To The King and Queen of Spain, 1493.*—The first of the European potentates to act was Pope Alexander VI, who, in 1493, less than a year after the return of Columbus, granted to Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Aragon and Castile, all the continents, inhabited by infidels, which they had discovered, extending the assignment to their heirs and successors, the kings of Castile, Aragon and Leon. The validity and value of this grant will be best understood when it is borne in mind that Pope Alexander VI, who made the grant, had no more right or title to the lands granted than the unborn child of the poorest beggar in Europe.

*The Cabot Patents, 1496.*—In the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and ninety-six, Henry VII, king of England, granted to John Cabot and his sons, Lewis, Sebastian and Sancius, a patent of discovery, possession and trade. This patent was to include all lands they might discover, of which they were to take possession in the name of the English Crown. England laid claim in 1498 to all of North America, through the discoveries of the Cabots.

*The Plymouth Company's Charter, 1620.*—James I, king of

Great Britain, France and Ireland, granted to the council at Plymouth, England, all that part of America lying between the fortieth and forty-eighth degrees of north latitude, and extending from "sea to sea." This grant included within its limits the whole of what is now Iowa, and challenged any rights, or alleged rights, Spain claimed under the grant of Pope Alexander VI.

*The Massachusetts Bay Company's Charter, 1628.*—The "Council established at Plymouth," England, granted to Sir Henry Roswell and others, all that part of New England in North America extending along the Atlantic coast from three miles north of the Merrimac river to three miles south of the Charles river and westward between the latitude of  $42^{\circ} 2'$  and a point three miles north of the most southerly bend of the Merrimac, to the South Sea. This grant gave to the Massachusetts Company that part of Iowa lying between the parallels passing through the north edge of Clinton county and the south part of Clayton county. Charles I, king of England, granted, March 4, 1629 to Sir Henry Roswell and twenty others, a charter similar to that of 1628, with the exception, that no part of the lands therein granted were, on the third day of November, 1629, inhabited by any other Christian prince or within the limits of the Southern Colony of Virginia. The associates were made "one body corporate and politic in fact and name, by the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England."

*The Warwick Grant, 1630.*—The Council at Plymouth granted to the Earl of Warwick a tract of country south of Massachusetts. The Earl on the nineteenth day of March, 1631, transferred the grant to Lords Say and Sele, Brooke and others. The country was defined in the transfer as lying south of Massachusetts, and west of Narragansett river, extending westward 120 miles along the coast, and thence west to the Pacific. The Warwick grant embraced that part of Iowa lying between  $41^{\circ}$  and  $42^{\circ} 2'$ , parallels passing through near the center of Henry county and the north edge of Clinton county.

*The Plymouth Company's Charter, 1635.*—The charter of the Plymouth Company was surrendered to the crown of England to obtain a confirmation of the respective rights of the original members of the company. The grant was divided into twelve parts,

and distributed by lot. No territory was partitioned lying west of forty miles west of the Hudson river. The Province of Virginia, on the surrender of the charter of the Plymouth Company, extended its jurisdiction to the forty-first parallel, the south line of the Warwick grant. The territory of Iowa was then claimed by Virginia, the assignees of the Earl of Warwick, and Massachusetts, to the north line of Massachusetts, and from thence north by the crown of England.

*The Massachusetts Bay Company, 1652.*—The general court of Massachusetts extended the northern boundary of the province to three miles north of the head of the Merrimac, latitude 43°, 43'. 12'', and west to the Pacific. This extension of boundary placed all of northern Iowa under the claim of Massachusetts.

*The Connecticut Charter, 1662.*—Charles II, king of England, Scotland and France, granted a charter to John Winthrop and other associates, to the country included in the Warwick grant of 1639, the colonies having purchased the rights of the patentees in 1644.

*The Massachusetts Bay Company, 1677.*—The crown of England ordered that the northern bounds of Massachusetts be restored to within three miles of the Merrimac, thereby leaving the jurisdiction of the north part of Iowa subject to the direct control of the king, as it was previous to 1652. The colony, however, still claimed to the northern limits.

*La Salle's Patent, 1678.*—Louis XIV, king of France and Navarre, granted a patent to Robert de la Salle, permitting him to discover the western part of New France. April 9, 1682, La Salle, having descended the Mississippi and explored the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the westward, took formal possession of the country in the name of the king of France, "from the mouth of the Ohio, also along the Mississippi and the rivers discharging themselves therein from its source beyond the country of the Nadoues-sious as far as its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico."

*The Massachusetts Bay Company's Charter, 1684.*—The court of chancery of Westminster, England, decreed that the patent of Massachusetts should be brought into court and cancelled.

*The Massachusetts Bay Company's Charter, 1691.*—William and Mary, king and queen of England, granted a charter uniting the colonies of Massachusetts, New Plymouth and others under the name of "Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England." This charter included the same territory in Iowa as did that of the charters of 1628 and 1629.

*Crozat's Patent, 1712.*—Louis XIV, king of France and Navarre, granted a patent to Anthony Crozat, for fifteen years, with the right to carry on a trade in the country between Carolina and New Mexico. The country was to retain the name of Louisiana and be annexed as a dependent of New France. The laws of France were extended to the province.

*The Western Company's Patent, 1717.*—Crozat surrendered his patent to the crown of France, and King Louis XV granted to the Western Company, for twenty years, the exclusive commerce of Louisiana, and the right of beaver trade with New France. The charter gave rights of civil and military jurisdiction. It was surrendered to the crown in 1730.

*The Act of Fontainbleau, 1762.*—A preliminary treaty was signed between England, France and Spain, by which it was agreed that the boundary between the provinces of England and France should be irrevocably fixed by a line drawn in the middle of the Mississippi river, from its source to the Iberville, etc. Louis XV, king of France, ceded Louisiana to Spain. The province was formally taken possession of August 18, 1769. By this treaty the territory comprised in the bounds of the state of Iowa was definitely placed in the province of Louisiana, and the rights of the English claimants terminated.

*The Treaty of Paris, 1763.*—A definite treaty was signed between England, France and Spain, confirming the boundary between the possessions of England and France as agreed upon by the Act of Fontainbleau, of 1762.

*The Treaty of San Ildefonso, 1800.*—A secret treaty was entered into by France and Spain, by the terms of which France agreed to procure a kingdom in Italy for the Duke of Parma, son-in-law of Carlos IV, king of Spain, in consideration for which



Spain agreed to retrocede to France, within six months, the Colony or Province of Louisiana. The treaty was modified in some respects by a new treaty negotiated at Aranjuez, March 24, 1801, which provided for the immediate retrocession of the Province.

*The Treaty of Paris, 1803.*—By the treaty of Paris, France, ceded the Province of Louisiana to the United States. The treaty was ratified and proclaimed October 1, 1803. The province comprised all west of the Mississippi river north and east of the Spanish possessions.

The treaty of Paris, by which Napoleon ceded Louisiana to the United States for the sum of fifteen millions of dollars completes the European chain of title to the lands comprising the state of Iowa. We have shown that the government of the United States obtained these lands by two separate titles, the American and the European; that the American title was obtained from the actual owners and occupiers of the lands, the Indian tribes; that the European title, when traced back to its origin, rested on nothing more substantial than the grants, decrees and charters of 15th century European potentates who had themselves no color of title to the land they so lavishly and so flippantly gave to others. From this it is clear that by every principle of reason, equity and law, the American should be held as the paramount title. Yet it is a strange commentary on the jurisprudence of nations that the European title alone is recognized.

## CHAPTER III.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT—WHO THE FIRST SETTLERS WERE  
AND THEIR PLACE OF SETTLEMENT—TROUBLES WITH THE INDIANS—  
RESULTING HARDSHIPS OF THE SETTLERS—IMPORTANT EVENTS IN  
EARLY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY.

*By H. G. Parker.*

The first settlement in Cerro Gordo county was made by Joseph Hewitt and James Dickirson, who came from Clayton county, in the summer of 1851, for the purpose of hunting, to capture buffalo calves and elk, which were known to exist here in great numbers at that time. They first camped on the southeast shore of Clear Lake, in July, 1851, after experiencing many hardships and labors in crossing streams, swollen to unusual proportions by the rains, which deluged the country that season. Little thinking that this wild place was henceforth to be their home, and eventually the place of their burial, they proceeded to construct such cabins as their immediate wants, and necessities of pioneers demanded. To these cabins, as evening approached each day, they brought bountiful supplies of buffalo meat, elk, venison, and other game, as well as fish from the lake to supply their wants. Here, fifty miles distant from any white neighbor, cut off from retreat to the settlements by the high waters and almost bottomless sloughs they had to cross in their journey, they were compelled to make preparations to pass the winter and endure such hardships as only the first settlers experience, privations unknown to the poorest inhabitants of today, too numerous to be mentioned in detail, and, if mentioned unpleasant to dwell upon.

When the spring of 1852 came, Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Dickirson decided to remain and permanently locate. Accordingly they took claims of timber and prairie belonging to the government lands which had not yet been surveyed. Little farming however,

was done for several years, and the grain for their animals, as well as flour for bread, was brought in wagons for many miles, often from Jones, Delaware and Clayton counties, while groceries and clothing came principally from Dubuque, 180 miles distant.

A little after this, either in the fall of 1851, or spring of 1852, Elijah Wiltfong settled on the Shell Rock, at Shell Rock Falls, in the northeastern part of the county, and made a claim to the water power and timber land adjacent.

The next to follow his lead were two brothers, David and Edwin Wright, who located on the banks of Lime creek, about three miles northwest of the present site of Mason City, in 1852. There they took claims and made some improvements. They, too, were accustomed to pioneer life, and with the rifle supplied many wants which otherwise would have been severely felt. John B. Long and John Biford came from Winnebago county, Illinois, in June, 1853, and made extensive claims on Lime creek, in the vicinity of what is now Mason City. Their claims comprised most of the timber lands, and some of the finest prairie in this vicinity. To the large body of timber on Lime creek near this place, Mr. Long gave the name of Masonic Grove, in honor of the order of Free Masons, of which he was supposed to be a member, and the early settlement of the vicinity, was for several years known as Masonic Grove.

In the summer of 1853, Anson C. Owen, located a claim in a fine grove about six miles southeast of Masonic Grove, and the grove immediately took the name of Owen's Grove. Subsequently a civil township was named in honor of him, and his name from that time to the present has been as familiar as household words to every old settler. In the summer of 1853, Robert O. Sirrine and James S. Sirrine settled and took claims on the east shore of Clear Lake, while Michael Callanan located on the south side. That spring the county was surveyed into townships, by John T. Everett and a Mr. Anderson, government surveyors.

In the latter part of the same season the county was subdivided into sections and quarter sections, and the following year a town was laid out on part of the present site of Mason City by John B. Long, George Brentner and Joseph Hewitt, each proprietor and owner of a one-third interest, although the land on which it was laid out yet belonged to the government. The town was christened "Shiboleth." Subsequently Joseph Hewitt sold out his share in the plat.

In October of that year John McMillen, accompanied by James Jenkinson, arrived and put up the body of the first log cabin on the town plat. Mr. McMillen returned to Winnebago county, Illinois, to winter, leaving our young friend Jenkinson to pass the winter as best he could, alone in camp. A few stones now mark the spot where he established his winter quarters on the bank of Lime creek, in the timber near a spring half a mile northeast of Shioleth. To James Jenkinson belongs the honor of being the first permanent settler in the immediate vicinity of our city. What hardships he endured that eventful winter of 1853-4, now on the verge of starvation, and now almost miraculously relieved by timely aid at the hands of a visiting Indian, who shared with him his venison while enjoying the comforts of his cabin, we will not now enumerate. He came out alive in the spring of 1854, when he was relieved by the return of J. L. McMillen and others, bringing ample supplies of provisions and material to replenish his somewhat tattered wardrobe.

That spring added quite a number of inhabitants to the few already here. Among these was Jarvis J. Rogers, who, with his family, located twelve or thirteen miles southeast of Masonic Grove, and eight miles southwest of Owen's Grove, in a small body of timber to which the name of Linn Grove was given, on account of a cluster of linn or basswood trees at its western extremity. Here he made his claim and erected his small cabin, and with the help of his family, although in very poor health, commenced to improve the land and cultivate the soil.

At this time every thing looked reasonably prosperous and promising to the settlers. Hope that a constant stream of emigration, gradually increasing, would flow into the county, animated the hearts of the sturdy pioneers. They had planted and sowed, expecting their coming crop would carry them through the next winter, and they should not need for bread or grain. But suddenly an unforeseen calamity comes upon them. The news of an Indian raid; that a band of Sioux warriors are at hand, ready to murder the inhabitants, is spread among them, and they are thrown into a state of consternation resulting in a general stampede for protection to the older settlements on the Cedar river. This hasty retreat of the settlers took place on the fourth of July, and for some time afterwards the county was depopulated, only the soldiers who were sent to repel the Indians daring to return to Clear Lake.

The trouble originated in an old feud between the Winne-



bagoes and Sioux Indians. A band of the former, to whose tribe Captain Joseph Hewitt (Nock-a-shooka) had formerly been a trader, were wont to visit their old haunts at Clear Lake and camp in the timber near Hewitts cabin. To the Winnebagoes encampment, one evening, came two Sioux pretending friendship. These the Winnebagoes entertained kindly through the night, although well aware that mischief and treachery were at work.

Toshanaga, a Winnebago brave, (The Little Otter) communicated his suspicions to Captain Hewitt, who bade him to be quiet, telling him that the two Sioux, seemed well disposed. Toshanaga's son, Patchoka, a boy of fifteen, rode Hewitt's horse to look for the cows, following the road the Sioux had taken down the shore towards R. O. Sirrine's house. He had been gone but a few minutes when the report of a gun in that direction convinced Toshanaga that the boy was murdered and soon the horse came galloping back riderless. Hewitt found drops of blood and a small piece of a bone on the horse's back. He and Toshanaga hurried down the road and found the headless body of Patchoka in the road. Giving him a hasty burial the Winnebagoes left the settlement, and messengers were sent to all the settlers of the county to make their escape. Thus originated the hasty flight of all the inhabitants, on July 4, 1854, so disastrous to their prosperity, depriving them of the little crops. they had put in for the winter's use, and bringing other discomfitures so keenly felt by all.

Slowly and sadly they returned to their homes, after weeks of absence, to find them robbed of all that could be made useful by a lawless crew of soldiers and roughs, who had visited them during the absence of their proprietors. Notwithstanding all this, most of them determined to remain and hold their lands, which would come into market on the following September.

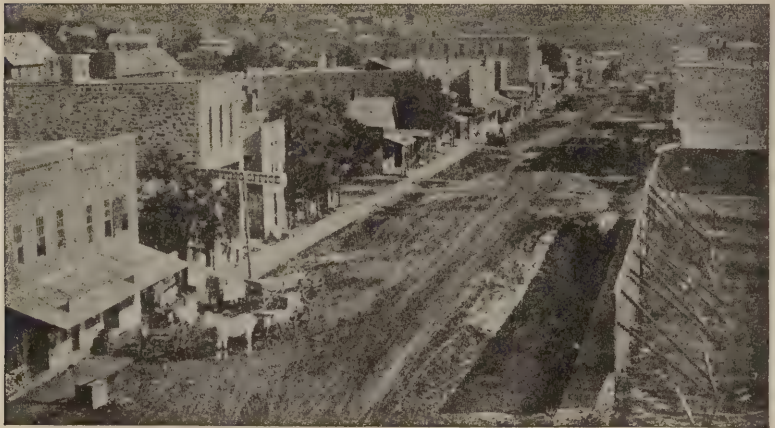
Many had been compelled to use the funds laid by for the land sale during their absence. This with some was a serious matter, but they all repaired to Des Moines to attend the land sale, which opened September 4, 1854. They were regularly organized into settlers clubs for the purpose of protecting each other in securing their claims, and especially against speculators who might appear and bid on their lands.

The officers of the land office gave them their full sympathy and aid, advising them to settle all dispute among themselves, then to appoint men to bid on their lands as agreed among themselves, and if any speculators interfered or offered to bid against them,

the Des Moines river was near and they knew what to do with them.

After securing their lands they returned to enter more heartily upon the work before them. Yet they were not free from difficulties, for the stampede in July had used up much of what was now needed, and their money had been expended in purchasing their lands, while some had no funds to secure their lands, and had to borrow for that purpose.

That year a goodly number was added to the settlers already here. To Shell Rock Falls came Richard Moore and H. I. Smith, with his mother and other members of the family; also Richard Morris, Mahlon Brown and Robert Campbell. George L. Bunce and Chauncy Lugard settled on the Shell Rock a few miles below



MASON CITY IN 1870.

the falls. Jacob Van Curen located in Lime Creek township, on section 26. Wellington Benton settled three miles north of Mason City. In August, Henry Martin came and settled on land north of Mason City. James G. Beebe and others came to Masonic Grove, while several others came to the vicinity of Shiboleth, which was purchased by John B. Long, who changed the name to Masonville in honor of a son of his named Mason, who died a short time previous to his leaving Illinois.

Either soon after this, or early the next year, a postoffice was established, and as there was already an office in the state called Masonville, both the postoffice and the name of the town was

changed to Mason City. The following winter, 1854-55, is said to have been unusually mild, a very fortunate circumstance for the inhabitants in their condition at that time.

The next spring and summer of 1855 were seasons of prosperity and rapid growth of the settlements. Early in the spring Cerro Gordo was attached to Floyd county for judicial purposes, and treated as one of the civil townships. Accordingly an order was issued by John M. Hunt, judge of Floyd county, for an election to be held at Mason City on the first Monday of April, 1855, for the election of two justices of the peace, two constables, three township trustees, one assessor and one township clerk.

The records of that day, though very imperfect, show the fact that George L. Bunce and John L. McMillen were elected justices of the peace in and for Cerro Gordo county.

It is presumed that other officers were elected at the same time, although the records fail to mention the fact.

Among those who came to Mason City that season we may name J. S. Church, N. M. Adams and family, Silas Card, I. W. Card, E. Randall, Thomas Drummond, A. B. Miller, F. J. Turnure, S. Zuver, and many others. Alonzo Wilson also settled at Owen's Grove, and William Abbott purchased land there. C. W. Tenney came in May, 1855, and located near the present site of Plymouth.

At Clear Lake, Marcus Tuttle, James Turner, Joseph Wood, H. G. Parker and others purchased property and settled.

At Shell Rock Falls, A. J. Glover purchased the water power, erected a log store and prepared to build a mill.

Thomas Perrett, John G. Kortee and others also came to the Falls.

Ira Williams built a house on the prairie one mile west.

E. Randall and his brother came to Mason City and built a saw mill, the first in the county from which sawed lumber was obtained for floors, which up to this time had been hewed from split logs.

Several persons had already settled on the Shell Rock, three miles above the Falls, where Plymouth now stands. Among them were John Morgan and John Meyers.

The first Monday of August, 1855 was designated by the judge of Floyd county as the time for the election to be held at Mason City, to organize the county. At this election John B. Long was chosen judge; Henry Martin, clerk of the district court; C. B. Raymond, attorney; Henry Van Patter, treasurer and recor-



der; David Wright, school fund commissioner; I. W. Card, county surveyor; N. W. Stackhouse, sheriff, and James Dickirson, coroner. With this board of officers, Cerro Gordo county began her organized and official career, and began to assume among the counties a separate and distinct form of government.

On the fourteenth of the following November, C. W. Scott was appointed clerk of the district court in place of Henry Martin, resigned. Subsequently the judge divided the county into four civil townships or precincts; Lake, which took in a tier and a half of townships on the west side of the county; Canaan embraced the territory adjacent to and north of Mason City; Falls, in the northeastern part of the county; and Owen which had for its capitol Owen's Grove, and embraced all the territory south of Canaan and Falls townships.

These townships were organized at an election held April 7, 1856, in each, at which time two county officers were also elected; Thomas Drummond, school fund commissioner, and A. G. Parker, drainage commissioner.

The first officers of Lake township were: Marcus Tuttle and H. G. Parker, justices of the peace; Peter P. Wood and Hiram H. Stiles, constables, and James Turner, Clerk.

Of Canaan township the first officers were: Elisha Randall and Solomon Zuver, justices of the peace, and J. C. Gregory, constable.

Owen township had the following for its first officers: Alonzo Wilson, justice of the peace, and Charles Strong, constable.

Having named the first officers chosen in their respective townships, as far as they can be found out, it is proper that mention should be made of some enterprises carried out at this time.

In the spring of 1856 the saw mill, which Elisha Randall had built the previous year, was carried out by the ice and high water, the loss of which being a public calamity the citizens assisted him to rebuild. That season Edwin Nichols and Oscar Stevens erected a steam saw mill at Clear Lake, from which large quantities of lumber were turned out to be used in the construction of frame buildings, many of which were at that time being put up in the new town of Clear Lake village, on the north east shore of Clear Lake.

During the summer of 1856, a survey was made as far west as Clear Lake, from McGregor on the Mississippi river, for a railroad. The people believed the road would be speedily constructed. It was called the McGregor, St. Peter and Missouri Railroad. Many of the people took stock, and as payment put in farms, which they



eventually lost, while the road remained unbuilt and the company became bankrupt. Not until November, 1869, did the iron horse find his way into our county; but it is needless to mention today the wonderful things which every one can behold. Our ears are greeted with the steam whistle of the locomotive, which dashes along over our prairies bringing our daily mails and depositing the necessities of life at our very doors. Our telegraphs dropping intelligence with lightning pulsations, and words of eloquence hot from the lips that utter them; our churches with spires pointing upward; our school houses with our system of schools; all contrasts so strikingly with the condition presented by our county at that time, that he who knew it then can hardly realize that the same skies are over his head and the same soil beneath his feet.

And now after this very broken history, I drop the thread, feeling that nearly every subject, which should have been fully dwelt upon, has been unnoticed.

Indeed as one attempts to grasp the whole and reduce it to a few pages, it widens and expands, growing in importance and magnitude. A complete history of our county, its growth from the beginning, a mention of its worthy heroes, living and dead, would fill a volume. Very exact and patient of research must he be who can do justice to all, and fully perpetuate the memory of every event, even for the brief period which has transpired since the first settlement of the county in 1851.

## CHAPTER IV.

### COMING OF THE WHITE MEN.

THE COUNTRY PRIOR TO THE COMING OF THE WHITE MEN—A  
CHANGELESS LAND FOR TEN THOUSAND YEARS—THE COMING OF THE  
WHITE ARYANS—THE ARYAN REVOLUTION—THE PIONEERS.

For ten thousand years after the final retreat of the glaciers, there was little change in either the appearance or the life that ebbed and flowed in the Cerro Gordoan land. The narrow, canal-like channel of the Shell Rock had been cut and grooved out of the underlying rocky strata and had become a fixed topographical feature of the country's surface; a part of the detritus and impedimenta, a lingering heritage of the "Age of Ice," had been gradually cleared from the ancient valleys of the Lime and the Willow, restoring to them somewhat of their appearance in the hoary antiquity of pre-glacial times; the undrained depressions among the big hill-like heaps of detritus of the Altamont Moraine, in the western part, which had once been ponds and little lakes, had become peat beds or had silted up and changed to bogs and marshes filled with moss and reeds and flags or wet meadows covered with coarse grass; the streams of the southeastern part of the county ran peacefully in their ancient pre-glacial valleys; the flat and undulating prairies, created by the glaciers, and left naked, had long since become clothed with verdure. For ten thousand years there had been trees and scrubby openings around Clear Lake, there had been the miniature forests of Owen's and Hackberry groves, there had been the "piece of woods" at the junction of the Lime and the Willow, where Mason City now stands and there had been belts of timber along the banks of the Lime, the Shell Rock and the Beaver Dam.

For ten thousand years the prairie grass had grown and withered, the prairie flowers had bloomed and faded and the indigenous fruits, the strawberry, the apples of the crab and thorn tree, the haws, the purple grapes and the juicy plum had developed and

ripened in the summer and autumn sun. The mastodon, the mammoth and the horse had become extinct during these ten thousand years, but the bison, deer, elk, antelope, beaver, rabbit, wildcat, lynx, bear, wolfe, panther, badger, gopher, muskrat, skunk, weasel, still tenanted the woods and plains; and the same fishes and amphibia still swam in its waters, the same serpents crawled and writhed, and the same insect life bred and swarmed. The same birds of prey, the hawks and owls, the same game birds, the quail and grouse, the same song birds, the same waterfowl were here in this land for ten thousand years. The peacefully wending Lime, the swift running Shell Rock, the tortuous Willow, the Beaver Dam with its lilies and the Coldwater with its meadows, had murmured farewells to their shores as they went on their journey to the sea, and Clear Lake, a New World Galilee, had rippled in the sun and been lashed to fury by the storm for ten thousand years. And last but not least, this land of Cerro Gordo had, for this ten thousand years been peopled by tribes of dark skinned men, who hunted and warred, who loved and hated, who were married and given in marriage, who were born and died in all those countless and unrecorded generations.

In topography, climate, flora and fauna there had been practically no change since the immediately succeeding years after the final retreat of the last of the glaciers and the establishment of the new order of post glacial conditions.

And then, the eternally preordained hour having struck, the White Aryan, in his resistless, conquering march to the west, arrived in Cerro Gordo and brought with him the beginnings of a change so great, far-reaching and complete that it amounted to revolution; a revolution so profound and fundamental that it finds but few parallels in the history of mankind.

The conquest of Britain by the Low German tribes has been looked upon as one of the most complete known to human history. Yet Celtic place names cover England, the blood of the Briton mingles with that of the Angle, the Saxon and the Jute from Devon to the foot of the Grampians and still flows pure in Cornwall, in Wales and in the Highlands of Scotland.

In Cerro Gordo there does not live one Indian, there is not one drop of Indian blood and with the possible exception of "Calamus" Creek, there is not one Indian place name. Where once grew the upland prairie grass, now grows the wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, millet and buckwheat and where once the tall

blue joint grass afforded a hiding place for wild things are now endless fields of corn. Over the wide, flat slough and swale, the rank "slough" grass is giving way to the White Aryan's clover, timothy and bluegrass. The beautiful wild flowers that, when the Aryan pioneers first saw the land, made the prairies fairer than the New Jerusalem of the Apocalypse or the Paradise of Islam, are only to be found in a few isolated wayside places; everywhere blooms the exotic flowers of the white man.

Where once roamed the bison, the elk, and the deer, now peacefully pasture the horse, cattle, sheep and swine of the white invader. The quail and grouse are surely dwindling towards final extermination, while the hen, the guinea fowl and the domesticated turkey multiply and flourish. The wild geese and ducks that once darkened the waters are becoming curiosities, with certain extinction in plain sight, while the domestic geese and ducks fatten and increase. Even the face of the country is changed. Groves, farm houses, out-buildings and fences and sleepy country villages and smoky cities, with their piles of wood and brick and stone, obstruct the view where once the eye of the Indian swept the open expanse of the wide, level prairie with unobstructed vision.

The changeless land of ten thousand years has changed at last and that change the historian may well characterize as the "Aryan Revolution," a revolution which began back of even the twilight of historic times in the Old World, when the ancestors of the Medes and Persians invaded Iran and proto Hindus conquered India and when the savage Aryans subjugated and peopled the European jungles, a revolution carried forward by the Greeks and Romans and Medes and Persians of classic antiquity, a revolution that was sweeping the world until it encountered, in the Far East, the huge, passive resistance of China and the thoroughly organized military and economic and industrial power of Japan.

It is more than sixty years since the first White Aryans appeared in Cerro Gordo county. They came first in pairs as mere hunters, the scouts of the coming army. Then came the skirmish line of that army, the true pioneers. During the decade of the fifties, they came first in twos and threes, then in tens, then in twenties, while in the decade of the sixties they were coming by fifties and hundreds. With 1870 and the building of the railroads, came the deluge, the real line of battle of the invading army. Those who came after 1870 were not pioneers. Those who came during the decade of the sixties were pioneers, but their names



and numbers are too numerous for mention and, while in an honorable class, they are not quite of the elect, the "*first pioneers.*"

And who were these first pioneers and when and where did they pitch their tents and set up their tabernacles? A list of their names is a roll of honor and will be remembered as the Elders who entered the Promised Land with Joshua were remembered. The roll we publish is not complete but is nearly so. In this roll are included those who came during the year 1860 which marks the division between the pioneers of the first class, those who came in the decade of the fifties, and those who came after.

As might have been expected, Clear Lake furnished the first and greatest attraction to the hunter, trapper and fisher, and, encamped on its beautiful shores, we find Billings and Clark as long ago as 1849, professional hunters trappers and explorers, following their customary avocation. Two years later, Joseph Hewitt, then residing at Strawberry Point, an Indian trader, explorer, hunter and natural pioneer had listened to the enchanting tales told him by red men of a lake embosomed in woodland and meadow, that lay out in the mysterious west. Hewitt retold these tales to James Dickirson, William Alloway and Henry Robinson. Alloway and Robinson were young, single men and they did not remain, but Hewitt and Dickirson had with them each a wife and child and they determined to stay and build themselves homes.

So, in 1852 Hewitt and Dickirson became real settlers and thus secured the honor of being the first of the Pilgrim Fathers in the new land of promise.

In the year 1853 came the two Sirrines, James and Robert and Rowland Gardner and, apparently, Michael Callanan.

If any came in 1854 the tradition has failed to meet the eye of the historian.

In 1855 came Marcus Tuttle, H. G. Parker, Joseph Ward, James Turner, Peter P. Wood, Levi Laurance, Joseph Wood, Levi and George E. Frost.

In 1856 came T. S. Palmer, James Crow, Oscar Stevens, Edwin Nichols, S. Goodwin and certainly many others as in the fall of 1856 there were about forty dwellings in Clear Lake.

In 1857 came O. S. Howard, Dr. M. M. Skinner, R. Humphreyville and others.

In 1858 came J. M. Brainard and Dr. Wm. C. Stanbery.

## Falls Township.

To Falls township on the opposite side of the county from Clear Lake, came in 1853 Elijah Wiltfong and his stalwart sons.

In 1854 came John Myers, James Wright, Lewis Mosher, Robert Campbell, Richard Moore and H. J. Smith and his mother and family and an Italian by birth named Chauncey Lugard, also Mahlon Brown, George and Peter Clymer, Benjamin Sutton and George L. Bunce.

In 1855 came George Frederick, Ira Williams, Adam Kramer, John Morgan, H. M. Redington, Chas. Tenney, Thomas Perrett, Charles Johnson, Edwin Beckwith, A. J. Glover, Thos. Corkerton, and Horace Gregory.

In 1856 came Wm. Sherick and presumably many others.

Between 1857 and 1860 came Jacob Frederick, John Claus, Joseph Perrett, B. A. Brown, George A. Moore and Wm. Wilson and many others whose names are unknown.

## Lime Creek Township.

There came and settled on the banks of the silvery Lime, in Lime Creek township in 1853 David and Edward Wright.

In 1854 and 1855 came Wellington Benton, Henry Martin, Stephen Wright, James G. Beebe, A. Beebe, Seth B. Stevens, Jacob Van Curen, Leonard and Henry Van Patter, John and J. J. Russell, Thos. B. Wilson, Ambrose M. Bryant, Timothy H. Parker.

From 1858 to 1860 came A. L. Whitney, David Dunbar, Leonard Hill, Levi Parker and many others whose names are not known.

## Mason Township.

To the woodland at the confluence of the Lime and the Willow came in 1853, J. L. McMillen, John B. Long and James Jenkinson, and tradition hath it, also John Biford.

In 1854 came Alexander Long, Thos. Cassady, Lee L. and George Brentner and Jas. G. Beebe.

In 1855 and 1856 came Elisha Randall, E. D. and Chas. H. Huntly, Mrs. Lucinda Thompson, C. B. Peabody, Silas Card, Pierson Jones, Edgar Osborne, Peter S. Beeber, John A. Felt, J. P. Taylor, Albert Taylor, Osman B. Thompson, J. S. Church, N.

M. Adams, S. Zuver, Frank E. Temple, Thos. Drummond, A. B. Miller, F. J. Turnure, John West and I. W. Card.

From 1857 to 1860 came Bruce A. Bryant, James Clark, George Hartshorn, L. A. Franklin, Elihu Brown, Dr. Ogden and many others.

#### Lake Township.

In 1855 there came to Lake township Hiram A. Stiles, Harvey Luce, E. A. Tuttle, Andrew Butterfield, William Wilson, Peter Parrish, Chas. A. Meddaugh.

From 1856 to 1860 came A. B. Tuttle, Elnathan Crowell, Chas. Gillespie, William Dort, Thomas O. Howard and many others.

#### Lincoln Township.

Abel Clark led the way into Lincoln township in 1854. In 1856 Gabriel Pence came. In 1857 O. W. and George Pence followed.

From 1859 to 1860 there came Richard Osborn, M. Goodell, B. P. Richardson, George Goodell.

#### Portland Township.

A. C. Owen settled in Portland township in 1853.

In 1855 came A. S. Felt, Wm. Felt, G. L. Bunce, Wallace Gregory, L. Boomhover, Henry Senior, John and Samuel Brown, David Reed.

In 1856 came Amos Pardee, John and Samuel Jeffords, John M. Hunt, John Ford.

In 1857 the three Trevetts came, Isaac, Frank and George.

#### Pleasant Valley.

J. W. Goheen and Warren Kittel came and settled in Pleasant Valley township in 1856.

#### Owen Township.

In the year 1855 Alonzo Wilson, Abel Pierce and C. W. Weeks

came and settled in Owen township. In 1856 Chicago Wilson came. Brazil Updike came in 1858.

Mt. Vernon Township.

In 1858 Edwin Nichols and Oscar Stevens, already mentioned as pioneers of Clear Lake, settled in Mt. Vernon township.

Grant Township.

Abram Bennett, a hunter and trapper first and then a settler and farmer, settled in Grant township in 1855. In 1858 James Spear came and settled.

Geneseo Township.

Jarvis J. Rogers settled on the banks of the Beaver Dam in 1855.

From 1858 to 1860 there came to Geneseo township Lyman Hunt, John Whitesell, George A. Fuller, George E. Lyman, Rev. Loomis, Benjamin Francis, Walter and N. J. Grummon.

Bath Township.

Bath was settled first by two men, Tucker and Cantonwine, in 1856.

The foregoing is only claimed to be a partial list of the names of those who came into Cerro Gordo county and settled prior to and including the year 1860. This list contains in the neighborhood of 175 names and those are mostly heads of families, Counting five to the family and each of these names the head of a family, the total population of Cerro Gordo county would be but 875 in 1860. The actual population was 940. This is convincing evidence that the list is incomplete. As a partial offset, however, it should be borne in mind that many of the persons enumerated in the census of 1860 were mere floaters; hired men and women, temporary wage laborers, wanderers, land seekers, etc, and inconspicuous people settled in the villages. When every circumstance has been taken into account, the conclusion must be reached, that, of the actual substantial bona fide settlers, the names of an overwhelming majority have been written down in history.



## CHAPTER V.

## INDIAN TROUBLES.

EARLY SETTLEMENT AROUND CLEAR LAKE—THE FEUD BETWEEN THE SIOUX AND WINNEBAGOES—THE COMING OF THE SIOUX AND FEARS OF THE WINNEBAGOES—THE TREACHERY OF THE SIOUX AND MURDER OF A YOUNG WINNEBAGO—FURTHER TREACHERY OF THE SIOUX—FINAL RETREAT OF THE SIOUX—THE “GRINDSTONE WAR.”

*By M. P. Rosecrans.*

The first white men known to have been at Clear Lake were a man named Billings and Rufus Clark, who were here in the spring of 1849, hunting young buffalo and elk calves; while here they captured a young buffalo and marked it and then let it go. Billings and Clark were compelled to leave on account of the hostility of the Indians. Two years later, this same buffalo was killed by Joseph Hewitt and James Dickirson. The latter named gentlemen were the first settlers of the county. They came here from Clayton county, Iowa, in the spring of 1851, making claims and putting up log cabins on section 24 in township 96, range 22. They staid here two years alone, no other settlers coming until two years later, 1853, when David and Edward Wright came and took claims on Lime creek, about ten miles away. Robert and James Sirrine came in the fall of 1853 and made claims. In the spring of 1854, Mr. Senior came with his family and made a claim, where he still lives. That being the year of the Indian troubles, no more families came that year, but two families of Winnebago Indians came in the winter of 1853-4, and camped near Hewitt's cabin.

Hewitt had been a government trader with the Winnebagoes, and was well acquainted with the leaders of that tribe, and also with their language; this was the cause of the Winnebagoes camping near him. The Sioux and Winnebagoes were mortal enemies, and the former being the more powerful and warlike, the latter

were in great fear, and depended in a great measure on the whites for protection. In the month of June, 1854, seven Sioux Indians came to Hewitt's and staid over night. They first came to the camp of the Winnebagoes but professed to be greatly afraid of them, so they desired Hewitt to keep them.. They acted quite friendly toward the Winnebagoes, smoked with them and made them presents of tobacco and pipes. These Indians went away the following day, and the second day after their visit, two others of the same tribe came and stopped over night; they also seemed friendly, but the Winnebagoes were in great fear of them and dare not visit their camp. The main body of the Sioux were then encamped on Lime creek, about twelve miles from the lake, numbering about 500. Hewitt locked the two Sioux in his house that night in order to quiet the fears of the Winnebagoes. After breakfast the next morning they went to the Winnebagoes and bade them farewell in a kind friendly manner, pretending they were about to leave their camp; instead of doing so, however, they moved to the lake shore and sat down, where they remained about two hours. They then arose and went to the house of R. O. Sirrine, about half a mile up the lake shore, and there ground their knives and loaded their guns, remaining in that locality until the middle of the afternoon. During this time the Winnebagoes had sent a boy, of about sixteen years of age, to the prairie to look for their horses. The boy, on his way, passed by Mr. Sirrine's house, and as soon as he had passed, the two Indians ran east with their guns, and were lost to view. The boy on returning with the horses passed by Sirrine's house, but had proceeded but a short distance farther when the report of a gun was heard, and the boy fell from his horse. Mrs. Sirrine remarked that she was certain that the Sioux had shot him, which proved to be the fact; they being concealed in the brush near the road. The horses ran home immediately, one of them covered with blood. Hewitt and one of the Winnebagoes, the other being absent at the time, ran up the road, in the direction from which the horses came, until they came to the boy lying in the road; they found the Sioux had cut off his head and carried it off with them. The boy was a fine shrewd Indian, could speak English and was quite intelligent.. The alarm was given and the headless body was buried immediately.

At that time there were three families at that place, where Mason City now stands, but they soon left after the murder of this boy. The only settlers at the Lake were Hewitt and Dickirson

together with the two Sirrines. Callanan had not moved his family out, but was breaking prairie on his claim. Hewitt and Dickirson each had a hired man; these, with the Wrights, before referred to, were all the white men in the county at that time, June, 1854. After burying the boy, Hewitt and Dickirson put the two families of Winnebagoes into Hewitt's wagon, Dickirson's man and team having gone to Dyersville, a distance of 150 miles, for provisions. They then put on the cover, and fastened it down, and sent them away under the charge of Hewitt's hired man, who took them to the place where Marble Rock now stands, a distance of thirty-five miles. The young man in charge there met Dickirson's team, which turned back and took them to Clarksville, eight



ISLAND FROM GRAND VIEW, CLEAR LAKE.

miles further on, where a man was engaged to take them to Cedar Falls, and from there to Davenport, where they took passage on a boat going up the river, and finally reached their own county on the Wisconsin side.

Dickirson had, at this time, removed to the prairie about one mile from the lake shore and two miles from Hewitt's and about the same from Sirrines; Callanan's claim was about one mile from Hewitt's in an opposite direction. All except Dickirson lived in the timber, and their dwellings could be easily approached by the savages without fear of discovery. To guard against a contingency of this kind, and that they might unite their strength, the few families gathered at Dickirson's on the prairie, his house command-



ing quite a view of the surrounding country without an intervening object. They were all much excited, being alone as they were in the wilderness, far removed from friends and civilization, with no hope of succor and in the neighborhood of a band of hostile Indians, numbering 500, who had already tasted blood enough to excite their hellish passions, and with this the settler might well be alarmed. Here were mothers with small children, weak, harmless and inoffensive, that were liable to have their brains dashed out by the merciless blows of the Indian tomahawk, while the fathers and their few white friends without families, stood ready to sell their lives if need be in defense of all they held near and dear to them.

Such was the condition of the few settlers who were assembled at the cabin of James Dickirson, at Clear Lake, in the month of June, 1854. The Indians still hung around, but were not visible for some four days, but scouts reported every morning that they had discovered fresh tracks of their ponies made in the night previous, as they had been hovering around the settlement for mischief or plunder. On the fourth day after the murder of the boy, about thirty Indians made their appearance eighty rods northeast of Dickirson's house. They were mounted and rode back and forth, brandishing their guns over their heads in a most threatening manner; their guns were scoured up very brightly and glittered in the sunlight. They kept this up for nearly half a day.

Hewitt, at this time, had gone to his claim to take care of his stock. When he returned, he watched their motions awhile with much fear, being so well acquainted with their customs. After noting their actions he told the rest to stay where they were, and he would go alone to them and see what they wanted; he being able to talk the Winnebago language, and most of that spoken by the Sioux, too. He told his friends that if he was killed they must defend themselves as best they could, and that it was uncertain whether he returned to them alive. Thus this brave man set forth, as all feared, to meet death at the hands of those relentless savages; but the maxim that fortune favors the brave was realized in this case. After leaving the cabin he walked boldly toward them, they awaiting his coming, sullenly and silently. When he came up to them he boldly asked them what they wanted, and what they were hanging about there for? They answered that the whites had the Winnebagoes concealed; that they were after them; that they were bound to have them dead or alive, and demanded of him that they



be given up. This Hewitt denied—he told them the Winnebagoes had left within an hour after the boy was murdered. This they would not believe. He then told them that if they would stack their guns upon the prairie, they might come to the house and search for them until they were satisfied. This they agreed to do, provided the whites would leave their guns at the house and come out and meet them half way. To this Mr. Hewitt agreed. They then stacked their guns, came about half way and stopped. Hewitt returned to the house and told his friends the agreement he had made, in compliance with which they stacked their guns and went out to meet the Indians. They then came up to the house together and made search until they were convinced that the Winnebagoes were not there. They then laughed and made sport of the whites, and showed them how nicely they had fooled them and how they had them at their mercy. They raised their blankets and each Indian showed a six shooter loaded and ready for an engagement; and after tormenting them for awhile, they went away apparently well satisfied, saying they wanted nothing of the whites. Still the whites did not place much reliance on their pretended friendship, and felt far from secure, as they were quite at their mercy and knew well the savage nature of the Sioux Indians. The next morning about 10 o'clock, there came 100 mounted men to their relief, coming from a distance of about 100 miles, having heard the alarm from the two Winnebagoes and their escort. When they came in sight of the cabin and saw the guard, they thought them to be Indians and that the cabins were in their possession. The people in the cabin, not expecting relief, supposed them to be Indians. But the settlers soon sent out a scout who found them out and they stayed until the next afternoon, doing nothing. They brought with them no provisions and Hewitt and Dickirson fed them until their supply of food was exhausted. Dickirson then proposed to them that they load up their families and move toward the settlements, which plan they carried out.

The captain of the company, desiring to appear very brave, said he did not believe there was an Indian within 500 miles, and that the scare was all unfounded. Dickirson told him that he could show him all the Indians he desired to see within an hour. The captain repeated that if he could he would soon clear them out, so effectually, that the whites would have no more trouble from them. As soon as the team had started Dickirson to gratify the ambition of the brave captain, took him along the trail about eight miles to a

point on Lime creek and pointed out to them a camp of over 500 Indians. The captain approached to within three-quarters of a mile of their camp, stopped and viewed them with wonder and surprise. Observing small clouds in the sky, he remarked that it looked like rain, and as it would be late before they could reach the camp, they had better take up their line of march for another place. In vain Dickirson desired him to pass on into the Indians' camp and have a talk with the savages. He replied that, much as he would like to do so, that he had no time then, and that they must be returning, which they did in all haste, and did not stop until they had reached the teams at or near where Mason City is now located, where they passed the night. The next day they all went to Marble Rock, when Dickirson and Hewitt decided to go no further. Their brave defenders left them there never to meet again. After a time they returned with their families to the lake.

The wives of the pioneers—James and Robert Sirrinc, Dickirson and Callanan—are sleeping quietly in the cemetery which is located on the land taken up by Dickirson.

Dickirson saw no more Indians about Clear Lake until 1856, when eleven Sioux came to his house and were impudent and saucy. They commenced chasing and throwing at his fowls. He asked them to desist, but they paid but little attention to what he said. He picked up a stone, and when they saw he intended to throw at them they paused and looked at him for a time, his wife telling him not to throw at them. They then came to the house and seated themselves on the woodpile.

There was a small grindstone on a bench outside the house; one of the Indians picked up the stone and started off with it, trying to break it. Dickirson told him not to break it. He followed him and told him to bring it back. The Indian paid no heed to what he said, but walked on. Dickirson then picked up a stone of four or five pounds weight, following him several rods from the house. His wife begged him to throw down the stone and return, lest the Indian might kill him. He finally threw down the stone and caught hold of the grindstone and jerked it away from the Indian; but in doing so he threw the Indian down. He then walked toward the house with his grindstone. The rest of the Indians were sitting on the wood pile with their guns in their hands. The Indian who had taken the stone was armed with a big walking stick, and as Dickirson walked toward the house, he arose and followed after him, and struck at him just touching his

hat. Dickirson turned quickly around, struck him with the grindstone over the head, knocking him down. He then walked on toward the house, which was about ten rods away. As the Indian did not get up, a portion of the tribe by the wood pile went to him and assisted him to rise, leading him toward the house covered with blood. They then went to Dickirson and wanted him to pay the Indian something. They finally demanded \$100, or a good horse (they prized all kinds of horses at that sum). Dickirson refused to give them anything. They then formed a circle around him, cocked their guns, and told him if he did not pay him they would kill him; he still refused, and called to his hired man to bring his double-barreled rifle; his wife all the time begging him to pay them and thus save their lives. She would not let him have his gun, but having five or six dollars she came out and gave it to them. After finding they could not scare him, they went off.

Marcus Tuttle, who had then moved there, returned soon after, and they both went to Mason City, rallied about twenty men, and followed the Indians to their camp. They were then encamped at a point across Lime creek, at a place called Brush Point. They numbered about fifty; they had just come in from a morning hunt, bringing in an elk and two deer. The whites took from them their game, some dried meat, and the money given them by Mrs. Dickirson. This so frightened the Indians that they packed up and left the country, never returning.

This ended the Indian troubles at Clear Lake, save a few bad scares, one of which was as follows: In the fall of 1857, about fifty Indians encamped on the public square, at Clear Lake, and engaged in a war dance, and it was rumored that this detachment were going to Shell Rock river, and were there to be joined by others, and on their return having thus cut off the retreat of the whites, were to murder and scalp them all. Dickirson soon quelled their fears and no more was heard of them.

The two Wright families, before referred to, left the county and never returned. Mr. Hewitt lived to a good old age and was finally buried on the spot where he first made his claim. For many years he was employed by the government as a mail carrier. This was when the county was new, roads poor, streams unbridged, prairies to cross, often for many miles without a house to be seen, yet he braved all these difficulties. He was always on the line of duty and gave complete satisfaction to the United States government and people. He was a strictly honest man, kind hearted and

of very strong friendship. He would rob himself to help others. Having lived on the frontier most of his life, he ignored fashions and reserve, and received you fearlessly, frankly and kindly. He was a man of sterling common sense, and a worthy representative of Iowa's early pioneers.

Mr. Hewitt's companion, Mr. Dickirson, who passed through the thrilling scenes we have narrated, lived at Britt, in Hancock county, an honest and intelligent man, for several years prior to his death, which occurred several years since. He was born in Missouri, April 29, 1820, and lived there until a man grown, when he removed to Galena, Illinois, and engaged in lead mining. In 1834 he came to Jackson county, Iowa, and shortly after removed to Clayton county, but still later his choice of frontier life caused him, in company with Captain Hewitt, to locate in Cerro Gordo county, which at that date was with Floyd county. The two families, Dickirson's and Hewitt's, first pitched their tents on the shores of Clear Lake, July 14, 1851.



## CHAPTER VI.

### ORGANIZATION.

POLITICAL EVENTS PRECEDING THE CREATION OF ORGANIZATION OF CERRO GORDO COUNTY—THE CREATION OF CERRO GORDO COUNTY—THE NAME—CERRO GORDO A CIVIL TOWNSHIP OF FLOYD COUNTY—THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY—FIRST ELECTION—THE COUNTY SEAT—COUNTY COURT—TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION—THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—COUNTY OFFICERS FROM ORGANIZATION OF COUNTY TO 1910.

Before proceeding with an account of the organization of Cerro Gordo county and giving its history as a separate political entity, it is best to give some account of the political history of the territory of which it is still a part and out of which it was originally carved; to give a brief resume of the political events which preceded, led up to and finally eventuated in the setting apart, by metes and bounds, of that particular tract called Cerro Gordo.

#### THE TREATY OF PARIS, 1803.

France ceded the Province of Louisiana to the United States. The treaty was ratified and proclaimed October 1st, 1803. The Province comprised all west of the Mississippi river north and east of the Spanish possessions, with the Island of Orleans.

#### DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

That part of the Province of Louisiana south of the 33rd parallel was detached to form the territory of Orleans, by act of Congress, and the residue named "District of Louisiana," and placed under the control of the governor and judges of Indiana Territory.

#### TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA, 1805.

A territorial government was established by Congress in the

District of Louisiana, and the name changed to "Territory of Louisiana."

#### TERRITORY OF MISSOURI, 1812.

The government of the Territory of Louisiana was reorganized and the name changed to "Territory of Missouri."

#### THE UNORGANIZED TERRITORY, 1821.

Missouri was admitted as a state and the remaining portion of the territory, that part north and west of Missouri and Arkansas, left without any form of government.

#### MICHIGAN TERRITORY, 1834.

The boundaries of Michigan Territory were extended by act of Congress westward to the Missouri river. This act again placed Iowa among the governments east of the Mississippi river. Michigan Territory extended from Lake Huron to the Missouri river, and from the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, north to the British possessions.

#### WISCONSIN TERRITORY, 1836.

Michigan Territory was divided by act of Congress April 20, 1836, and the western part established as Wisconsin Territory.

#### IOWA TERRITORY, 1838.

Wisconsin Territory was divided by act of Congress June 12, 1838, and the western part given a territorial government and named "Iowa Territory." This territory embraced the territory of the present state of Iowa, North and South Dakota east of the Missouri and White rivers, and Minnesota west of the Mississippi river and a line drawn from its source to the British possessions.

#### STATE OF IOWA, 1846.

Application was made to Congress February 12, 1844, for admission of Iowa as a state. On the first day of November of

that year a constitution was adopted by a territorial convention. An act of admission was passed by Congress on the 3rd day of March, 1845, but at the election held on the 4th of August following, the people rejected it. On the 18th of May, 1846, another constitution was adopted by a second convention, called for that purpose. This constitution proved acceptable to the people and was adopted at an election held August 3rd, of the same year. On the following day, August 4th, 1846, Congress passed an act repealing the law of March 3rd, 1845, and accepting the boundaries of the state as defined in this last constitution and as they exist today. On the 28th of December, 1846, Congress passed an act admitting Iowa as a state in the Union. The boundaries were set forth in the act as follows:

“Beginning in the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river, at a point due east of the middle of the mouth of the main channel of the Des Moines; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Des Moines river to a point on said river where the northern boundary of the state of Missouri—as established by the constitution of that state, adopted June 12, 1820,—crosses the said middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines river; thence westerly along the said northern boundary of the state of Missouri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension of said line intersects the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Missouri river to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of Big Sioux river, according to Nicollet’s map; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Big Sioux river, according to the said map, until it is intersected by the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, north latitude; thence east along said parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, until said parallel intersects the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence down the middle of the channel of the Mississippi river to the place of beginning.”

#### CREATION OF CERRO GORDO COUNTY, 1851.

The 3rd general assembly of Iowa, which convened at Iowa City, February 5, 1851, set off about fifty new counties in the northern and northwestern part of the state, Cerro Gordo being among the number. Its boundaries were minutely defined and an organization provided for as soon as an anticipated population

should demand it. Cerro Gordo county received its name from one of the most decisive battles of the Mexican war, in which the American army, under General Scott, gained an overwhelming victory over the Mexican army commanded by the Dictator Antonio Lopez De Santa Anna, in person.

#### CERRO GORDO A CIVIL TOWNSHIP, 1855.

In the spring of 1855 Cerro Gordo county was attached to Floyd county for judicial and other purposes as a civil township of that county. Accordingly an order was issued by John M. Hunt, judge of Floyd county, for an election to be held at the house of John L. McMillen, which stood within the present incorporate limits of Mason City, on the first Monday in April, 1855. The order of Judge Hunt called for the election of township officers—two justices of the peace, two constables, three township trustees, one assessor and one township clerk. If this election was ever held, there seems to be no written records to attest it. It is, and has been for years, both affirmed and denied. Whether it was ever held has ceased to be of moment. In fact events were hastening so rapidly at the time that before the time came for the township election it was dwarfed and forgotten in the presence of an issue of a thousand fold more importance to the people, to wit, the organization of Cerro Gordo county itself.

A short time before the time set for the organization of the township of Cerro Gordo, a petition for the organization of the county of Cerro Gordo was prepared and presented to Judge Hunt. Judge Hunt granted the petition and issued an order for the Election of county officers and the permanent organization of the county. The date of this election was set at August 7th, 1855.

As soon as it was known that the petition was granted, a convention was called for the nomination of county officers. John B. Long was then a very prominent man among the settlers of the county, and was one of the most active workers for a county organization. John L. McMillen was also a prominent worker. The convention was called by these two men. It was held at the log cabin of J. L. McMillen, in the summer of 1855. Candidates were nominated regardless of their political creeds. So far as issues were concerned, if there were any, they were due entirely to local prejudice.

On the 7th of August, 1855, the polls were opened and the



first regular election in Cerro Gordo county was held. The only voting place in the county was at the log cabin of John McMillen, on the present site of Mason City. About all of the voters in the county were in attendance, but every thing passed off quietly, and it was pretty much one-sided. Henry Martin was one of the clerks of the election, and Robert Campbell, Henry Van Potter and David Wright were the judges of election. John B. Long being a prominent man, had, by the convention, been accorded the highest county office—that of county judge. He received forty-nine votes and Silas Card one. For clerk of court, Henry Martin received forty-eight votes and Elisha Randall two. C. B. Raymond was elected prosecuting attorney by a majority of twenty-four, receiving thirty-three votes to nine cast for Elisha Randall. Henry Van Potter was elected treasurer and recorder, without opposition, receiving fifty-two votes. For school-fund commissioner there were two candidates, David Wright and Richard Morris. The former was elected, receiving forty-four votes to the latter's nine. I. W. Card was elected surveyor by a majority of eleven over J. B. Randall. For sheriff N. W. Stackhouse was elected. The vote stood: Stackhouse thirty-one; J. L. Stewart seventeen; J. V. Curen two. James Dickirson, the first settler in the county, was elected coroner, receiving fifty-two votes. Alanson Beebe also received one vote for coroner. Nearly all of the parties elected were Democrats. Henry Martin was one of the exceptions, he being a Whig.

The following is a list of the fifty-four voters at the election in August, 1855: Noah Cummins, James Dickirson, James Wright, C. B. Raymond, Elijah Wiltfong, Thomas Casady, George L. Bunce, McCullom Russell, Henry Wiltfong, W. R. Wilson, Aaron Peabody, Calvin Scott, Peter Clymer, Wm. Gilbert, Charles Lutz, Mahlon Brown, Richard Casady, J. P. Myers, John Russell, George W. Clymer, Eliphalet Allen, Richard Morris, Silas Card, Chauncey Lugard, Thomas Bears, James L. Stewart, J. R. Byford, J. J. Barker, C. W. Scott, Sebina Day, Wm. Reynolds, J. B. Long, Joseph Hewitt, J. L. McMillen, Andrew Butterfield, Anson C. Owen, J. G. Beebe, David Wright, Robert Campbell, Alanson Beebe, James Jenkinson, Elisha Randall, Joseph Wood, Henry Martin, Wellington Benton, Stephen Wright, D. W. Miner, Henry Van Patter, N. W. Stackhouse, A. A. Burton, Leonard Van Patter, Alexander Long.

Some time after the organization of the county much trouble

was experienced from the collection of taxes levied on lands which had not yet become taxable. Since that time the governmental wheels of the county have ground steadily and surely, without impediment or interruption. The county has been fortunate in having had capable and efficient officers, and public interests have always been well cared for.

#### THE COUNTY SEAT.

Shortly after the organization of the county, Hon. Samuel Murdock, judge of the district court, appointed three commissioners



CENTRAL SCHOOL, MASON CITY.

to locate the county seat of Cerro Gordo county. These commissioners were from Floyd county, and were in sympathy with John B. Long and the other county officers, who were outspoken in their choice of Mason City as the county seat. Shortly after the election in August, 1855, the commissioners met and after viewing a number of the available sites, decided upon Mason City as the future county seat of Cerro Gordo county, and ended their labors by driving the county seat stake on the square where now stands the Central school building of Mason City. This made some dissatisfaction among the settlers in the western part of the county,

who had hoped and worked to have the county seat located at some point near Clear Lake. Accordingly they set to work to undo what the commissioners had done. But for some time their efforts were futile.

When the sixth general assembly convened at Iowa City, in December, 1856, there were on hand, Thomas Drummond, Marcus Tuttle, Silas Card and I. W. Card, with a petition from the citizens of Cerro Gordo county, asking the appointment of three new commissioners to re-locate the county seat of Cerro Gordo county. They were successful in their efforts, and before the close of the session of the general assembly, Stephen H. Henderson, of Mitchell county; James Taggart of Benton county, and George McCoy, were appointed commissioners to relocate the county seat.

They met April 29, 1857, at Clear Lake and were sworn by I. W. Card, justice of the peace. After investigation, they made the following report to the county judge of Cerro Gordo county:

"The undersigned, a majority of the commissioners appointed to select and locate the seat of justice for this county, report that on the 29th of April, 1857, they met at the village of Clear Lake, in said county, having first taken and subscribed to the oath, they then proceeded to further discharge their duties, and after having visited and examined each locality in said county, that would in their opinion be in any way suitable for a seat of justice, they have upon mature consideration concluded that the future, as well as present interests of said county, would be most promoted with the selection of the following described tract of land, viz: Commencing at a point 40 feet south of a point 5 chains east of the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 18, township 96, range 21; thence south 4 1-4 chains; thence east 4 1-4 chains; thence north 4 1-4 chains; thence west 4 1-4 chains to the place of beginning. We have named the said selection Livonia. The commissioners therefore adjudge, determine and hereby constitute said Livonia, henceforth the seat of justice of said county of Cerro Gordo. And the above described selection and description of land shall be the site and locality for the erection of the necessary county buildings.

"In witness whereof, they have set their hands, this 30th day of April, 1857.

Stephen Henderson,  
James Taggart  
George McCoy, Commissioners."

(Signed)

As will be seen, the town of Livonia was located on section 18, of what now constitutes Lake township. During the summer of 1857, a court house was erected upon the new site, and late in the fall some of the county records were moved from Mason City to the new county seat, but the county officials were loth to go. C. H. Huntley, treasurer and recorder, and E. D. Huntley, clerk of the court, both moved their records and offices to the new court house, and spent most of the winter of 1857-8 at Livonia.

On the 1st of February, 1858, the county court convened at Mason City, with J. S. Church, county judge, presiding. It at once adjourned to meet at Livonia, the new county seat, where it again convened, and began the transaction of business. At this term of court A. B. Miller presented a petition numerously signed by the citizens, asking the court to grant an election to be held in April, 1858, to submit to the legal voters of the county the following question: "Shall the county seat of Cerro Gordo county be removed from Livonia to Mason City?" The petition being signed by over one-half of the citizens of the county, the county judge granted it, and issued an order for the election to be held on the first Monday in April, 1858.

After a hotly contested campaign, the election day came. It was one of the most bitter elections that has taken place in the history of the county, but the Livonia people were badly beaten, the vote standing: Mason City, 155; Livonia, 48. Thus Mason City received a majority of 107, and was declared the county seat. To the chagrin of Livonia, the county records were moved back to Mason City, where they have since remained, and today nothing marks the former site of the once promising Livonia to recall to mind the greatness of former years, and thoughts of what might have been.

#### THE COUNTY COURT.

The records do not give an account of the first term of the county court, but, as known, it convened with judge J. B. Long on the bench and Henry Martin, clerk. As no business presented itself, the court adjourned. The judge's minute book A, is the earliest record of court proceedings.. The first item states that a warrant was issued to A. P. Luse & Co., for \$458.25, in payment for county books, seals, and other necessary material for the use of the county officials. J. B. Long was county judge at this time,



and drew his salary, amounting to \$15.30. C. W. Scott, clerk of court, also drew his salary, which amounted to the same sum.

Under the date of August 8, 1856, it is stated that James Dickirson, the county coroner, received the sum of \$6 for holding an inquest over the body of John Van Aiken, who froze to death in 1855. A warrant also issued to J. L. McMillen, in the sum of \$4 in consideration of his having been "a jewry" on the same.

On the 16th of August, 1856, Judge Long drew an order in favor of himself, to the amount of \$32.30 in payment of his salary. J. S. Church received a warrant in the same sum in payment of his salary as treasurer and recorder. N. W. Stackhouse received \$3 for services in serving and obtaining a jury to set and try the case of John Van Aiken, who froze to death. Warrant eighteen for \$2.50 was issued in favor of C. C. Church to pay him for carrying the chain on the county road from Mason City to Owen's Grove.

Among others who received warrants about the same time were: Mark Dexter, \$8.75 for making table for recorder; James Simpson, services as deputy surveyor, \$6; H. A. Stiles, for assessing Lake township, \$43; John Belt, services as justice of the peace in case of people vs. T. Burris, \$9.65; N. W. Stackhouse, salary as sheriff, \$50.95; William Kerns, assessing Canaan township, \$45.50; A. H. Lunger, for making coffin for Van Aiken, and one to J. C. Bonar.

The first regular term of county court, as shown by the judges record, convened on the 1st of September, 1856, with J. B. Long as county judge, and E. D. Huntley as clerk. On that date a petition was presented from the citizens of Clear Lake asking for the vacation of that village. Twelve days later the judge ordered its vacation in accordance with the petition.

The second term of court convened October 6, 1856, but as no business appeared, it adjourned at once.

The first case to come before the county court was entitled John N. Bell vs. George W. Henderson, a petition for habeas corpus. The attorneys are stated as being "Harwood and Paun Broker" (Poindexter). The court decided that from a technicality it had no jurisdiction over the case. This was September 18, 1856.

Even at this early date in the history of the county, and on the 25th of September, 1856, Judge Long issued a proclamation for an election to be held October 27, 1856, for the purpose of

voting on the question of the county's taking \$130,000 stock in the McGregor, St. Peter & Missouri Railroad.

At this time the county was divided into three townships, Canaan, Lake and Owens. The vote in these townships was unanimous for the purchase of the stock; Canaan casting forty-five votes; Lake, thirty-nine votes and Owen, six votes. The total vote was ninety. This is the only election in the history of the county in which the vote of the county was unanimous. The board of canvassers at this election was composed of J. B. Long, Elisha Randall and S. Zuver.

In November, 1856, J. S. Church succeeded J. B. Long as county judge. He was a much better penman than Long and the records greatly improved when his administration began.

On the 17th of December, 1856, Judge Church re-divided Cerro Gordo county into townships, increasing the number from three to four. These were named: Mason, Falls, Lake and Owen.

These townships embraced territory as follows:

Mason comprised congressional townships 96 and 97, range 21. This territory is now embraced in the civil townships of Mason, Lime Creek and the east half of Lincoln and Lake.

Lake comprised the territory of townships 94, 95, 96 and 97, range 22, and the west half of townships 94, 95, 96 and 97, range 21. Today the territory named makes up the civil townships of Grant, Clear Lake, Union, Grimes, and the west half of Pleasant Valley, Mount Vernon, Lake and Lincoln.

Falls comprised congressional township 97, range 19, and the north half of township 96, range 19. This now comprises the territory of Falls and the north half of Portland.

Owen embraced congressional township 94 and 95, and the south half of 96, range 19; townships 94 and 95, range 20, and the east half of townships 94 and 95, range 21.

The places for holding the first election in the different townships were fixed as follows: Owen township, at the residence of A. C. Owen; Mason township at McMillen's hall; Lake, at the residence of R. O. Sirrine; Falls at the residence of A. J. Glover.

In July, 1857, a warrant was issued to John Porter, afterward district judge, in the amount of \$100, for forty days' services in assessing the county.

At the October election, in 1857, the question was submitted to the voters of whether the salaries of the county officers should be increased to \$300. It carried by a large majority.

On the first of February, 1858, court convened at Mason City, but immediately adjourned to Livonia.

By order of Judge Church, in February, 1858, the general form of the townships of Cerro Gordo was much changed, but in number and name they remained the same as at the previous division. At the March term in 1859 the form was again much changed.

In January, 1860, George Vermilya succeeded J. S. Church as county judge.

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

In 1859 an act was passed by the general assembly, which changed the form of local government in the various counties throughout the state. By it a body termed the board of supervisors was created to supercede the old system of county court, and was vested with nearly all the authority formerly held by that body. The board consisted of one supervisor from each organized township, making six members in all, as the county was divided into six townships.

The board of supervisors convened at Mason City, January 7, 1861, in the office of the clerk of court, who, by virtue of his office, was clerk of the board. On motion of A. C. Owen, Elisha Randall was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The board then proceeded to draw lots for the long and short terms of service, which resulted as follows: E. Randall, two years, Mason; J. J. Rogers, two years, Geneseo; A. C. Owen, one year, Owen; John M. Hunt, one year; John Gardener, one year, Lake; C. W. Tenney, Falls.

H. B. Gray was sworn in as clerk of the board. Chairman Randall appointed committees as follows: Roads and bridges, J. J. Rogers, John M. Hunt, and A. C. Owen; county buildings, John M. Hunt, A. C. Owen and J. J. Rogers. The board was in session for five days. At this time the county offices were situated in the stone store of Jarvis S. Church, in Mason City. By an act of the board, the county officers were authorized to rent that portion of the building needed for \$200 per year.

One of the most important acts of this session of the board, was to secure the legal services of W. P. Hepburn, in settling the vexed question of Cerro Gordo swamp land scrip, with the United States land office at Washington D. C. They made a contract with Mr. Hepburn which read as follows: "The county board

of supervisors and W. P. Hepburn, authorizing said Hepburn to proceed to Washington, and there to use all diligence, to bring about a speedy adjustment of the swamp land interest of said county, for which services said county is to pay the sum of \$200, in hand paid and the balance of \$1,000. When the county shall receive the said swamp lands or this equivalent in scrip or cash." Mr. Hepburn then entered into bonds to the amount of \$200 for the faithful performance of his duty, which was signed by D. E. Coon and C. C. Huntley.

That these "County Fathers" had the best interests of the county at stake, may be inferred from the following resolutions passed by them in January, 1861:

"Resolved, That we will not grant any petition for the erection of any bridge, any public building of any kind or description, nor for the performance of any act, over which this board has jurisdiction, asking for an appropriation of more than \$300, unless the said petition be duly signed by at least a majority of the legal voters of the county."

The first county printing done in the county was by order of the boards, also, who contracted with the Cerro Gordo county *Republican* to publish the proceedings for fifty cents per 1,000 "ems." But a little later in the year they accepted an offer from the editor of said paper, J. H. Aylsworth, to do all the printing connected with the county supervisors and that of county clerk, including blanks for the latter, for one year at \$250.

The spirit of patriotism was beginning to mature—a body of Home Guards had been organized, known as the Cerro Gordo County Guards, Captain G. A. Fuller commanding. And during the June session of the board of supervisors, a bill was presented by C. W. Tenney, asking for an appropriation of \$100 from the county treasury, with which to purchase two tenor drums, one bass drum and two fifes, the same to be kept and cared for by the county clerk, and to be held as the property of said county. The board made the appropriation.

The board convened at its second annual meeting, January 6, 1862, at the office of the clerk of court, and organized by the election of E. Randall to the chair for the ensuing year. At this time the board consisted of the following gentlemen: E. Randall,



Mason; J. J. Rogers, Geneseo; Gabriel Pence, Lincoln; David Butts, Falls; Edgar Osborn, Owen; E. A. Tuttle, Lake.

The supervisors in the August session in 1862, in the beginning of the dark days of the rebellion, issued the following resolution regarding a county bounty to be given to volunteers who should enlist in the United States service:

“Whereas, the present condition of our country demands the immediate and decisive co-operation of every individual and every corporation for the purpose of sustaining our government and preventing its final overthrow. And, whereas, the most efficient means of suppressing the rebellion is a vigorous and uncompromising prosecution of the war. And, whereas, humanity and justice demands that those of us who are magnanimously and patriotically offering their services to our common country in this the darkest and most perilous hour, should be encouraged and sustained in their noble enterprise. Therefore, be it enacted by the board of supervisors of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, that the sum of \$100 be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the county funds, to each volunteer, who has or may enlist into the United States service, under the late call of the president for 600,000 men—which said volunteers must be bona fide residents of Cerro Gordo county. And that the sum of \$4.00 be paid to the wife of each volunteer every month, and also \$1.00 per month for each child of such volunteer each month which are under the age of fifteen years.”

As kerosene oil has become such a cheap article in these days it may be of interest to note its cost in the earlier days of this county. In the proceedings of the board of supervisors in session December, 1862, the following record is found:

“On the 28th day of December, 1862, H. B. Gray, clerk of the board of supervisors, bought one gallon of kerosene oil for the use of the county at \$1.00. A warrant is hereby issued for the same.”

The third annual meeting began on the 5th of January, 1863. The board organized by the election of J. J. Rogers as chairman. A vote of thanks was tendered to E. Randall for the candid, impartial and gentlemanly manner in which he had acted as presiding officer during the previous year. The members present at this meeting were: J. J. Rogers, Geneseo; Edgar Osborne, Owen;

Elon A. Tuttle, Lake; Gabriel Pence and Wm. Totten, Lincoln; David Butts, Falls; E. D. Huntley, Mason.

On the 4th of January, 1864, the board of supervisors convened in its fourth annual session, at the office of the clerk of court in Mason City. J. J. Rogers was re-elected as chairman. H. G. Parker qualified as clerk of the board. The following is a list of the members present: J. J. Rogers, Geneseo; Gabriel Pence, Lincoln; E. D. Huntley, Mason; Theron Palmeter, Lake; George O. Morse, Falls; S. M. Richardson, Owen.

On the president's call for 300,000 more soldiers, December, 1864, the board of supervisors of Cerro Gordo county saw that a draft would follow unless some measure was adopted to obtain more recruits to make up their quota of men, hence they passed this resolution: "Resolved, That a bounty of \$500 be paid to a sufficient number of volunteers to fill the quota of this county under the present call for 300,000 men, and that said volunteers, when mustered into service, shall receive the above sums in warrants upon a special fund to be created for that purpose, said warrants to be paid in one and two years, with interest at eight per cent."

The board at this time consisted of six members, and the vote upon the passage of the above resolution was as follows: Yeas—S. M. Richardson, T. Palmeter, J. J. Rogers, George O. Morse, William Totten. Nay—George W. Henderson. The records contain a copy of Mr. Henderson's protest in regard to this matter, which shows that it was not because he was not in sympathy with, and loyal to the government, but because he deemed it too great a tax to impose upon the people who were then heavily burdened. The board appointed from their number Theron Palmeter, S. M. Richardson and George W. Henderson, as a committee to co-operate in securing the county's full quota, under the call.

The fifth annual session of the board commenced January 2, 1865. The meeting was called to order by J. J. Rogers, and S. M. Richardson was elected chairman for 1865. The members present were: J. J. Rogers, Geneseo; S. M. Richardson and Alonzo Wilson, Owen; T. Palmeter, Lake; George O. Morse, Falls; George W. Henderson, Mason; William F. Totten, Lincoln.

During this year the townships of Clear Lake and Portland were set off and ordered organized.

At the session on the 20th of December, 1865, the board appro-

priated \$150 from the county funds, to aid in the railway survey of the Central Railroad of Iowa.

The year's work of 1866 was inaugurated by the board's meeting January 1, 1866. George W. Henderson was elected temporary chairman, and W. C. Stanbery was chosen as chairman for the ensuing year. The following composed the board at this time: James Goodwin, Lake; George W. Henderson, Mason; R. Morris, Falls; W. C. Stanbery and W. B. Stilson, Owen; W. F. Totten and Gabriel Pence, Lincoln; J. J. Rogers, Geneseo.

On January 7, 1867, the board of supervisors convened for its seventh annual session. James Goodwin was unanimously elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following were the members of the board during the year: J. H. Valentine, Mason; Daniel Dougherty, Geneseo; William B. Stilson, Owen; Squire Humphrey, Lincoln; James Goodwin, Lake; R. Morris, Falls.

The eighth annual session of the board began with the meeting on January 6, 1868. Organization was effected by the election of J. H. Valentine of Mason, as chairman for the ensuing year. The representatives of the townships this year were the following: James Goodwin, Lake; J. H. Valentine, Mason; Thomas Perritt, Falls; Daniel Dougherty, Geneseo; Squire Humphrey, Lincoln; B. W. Updike, Owen; H. G. Gregory, Portland; Oscar Stevens, Clear Lake. Oscar Stevens and H. G. Gregory, being members elected from the new townships of Clear Lake and Portland, drew lots for the long and short terms, resulting in Stevens drawing the short term and Gregory the long.

In June, 1868, the board appropriated \$300 to aid in the completion of the Central Railway of Iowa survey.

During this year the board called a special election for the purpose of submitting the question of deeding the swamp lands to the McGregor & Sioux City Railroad Company. The proviso was that said company should build their road through the county within a specified time, and locate stations at certain places therein. The people voted the grant on these conditions: The donation consisted of 30,153 acres of swamp lands belonging to the county, but which was in litigation with the county and the American Emigrant Company, who claimed title to these lands by virtue of some old contract between that company and the United States government. By reason of this the citizens of Cerro Gordo county did not value them highly. But the railroad company agreed to take said lands and guarantee them against all expense connected

with the imperfect title—so virtually they simply gave the company a quit-claim deed for said lands. The recorder's description of these lands was very long. There was \$15.50 worth of United States revenue stamps attached thereto.

At the January session the board appointed the county auditor, C. B. Senior, and George W. Henderson, as a committee to visit other counties and investigate the plan of working poor farms and poor houses.

On the 4th of January, 1869, the board convened to inaugurate their year's work. James Goodwin was elected chairman for the year. The following were the members: James Goodwin, Lake; H. G. Gregory, Portland; Thomas Perrett, Falls; E. M. Brown, Owen; Oscar Stevens, Clear Lake; B. T. Hartshorn, Mason; Daniel Dougherty, Geneseo; Joseph Chartier, Lincoln.

Under the jurisdiction of this board Grant township was set off and ordered organized.

The tenth annual meeting commenced on January 3rd, 1870. An organization was effected by the election of James Goodwin of Lake township, as chairman. The board was composed of the following gentlemen: James Goodwin, Lake; Oscar Stevens, Clear Lake; Thomas Law, Sr., Lincoln; M. Dexter, Grant; Thomas Perrett, Falls; L. W. Reed, Portland; A. R. Stilson, Owen; B. F. Hartshorn, Mason; D. Dougherty, Geneseo.

In 1871 the system of county government throughout Iowa was changed.. The board of supervisors, instead of consisting of one member from each township, was to be composed of three members, elected by the county at large.

As nothing of special interest has transpired, the time of the board being occupied with routine business, the list of members from 1871 will suffice. They drew lots one, two and three years.

1871—Thomas Perrett, chairman; James Goodwin and H. G. Parker.

1872—Thomas Perrett, chairman; W. W. Knapp and James Goodwin.

1873—James Goodwin, chairman; Thomas Perrett and W. W. Knapp.

1874—W. W. Knapp, chairman; Thomas Perrett and C. B. Seabury.

1875—Thomas Perrett, chairman; C. B. Seabury and George L. Herrick.



1876—C. B. Seabury, chairman; George L. Herrick and Thomas Perrett.

1877—George L. Herrick, chairman; Thomas Perrett and H. J. Willis.

1878—Thomas Perrett, chairman; H. J. Willis and Francis McMullen.

1879—H. J. Willis, chairman; Francis McMullen and J. B. Dakin.

1880—Francis McMullen, chairman; J. B. Dakin and H. J. Willis.

1881—J. B. Dakin, chairman; H. J. Willis and Albert Bruce.

1882—H. J. Willis, chairman; J. B. Dakin and Albert Bruce.

1883—Albert Bruce, chairman; J. B. Dakin and H. J. Willis.

1884—J. B. Dakin, chairman; H. J. Willis and William Henderson.

1885—H. J. Willis, chairman; Wm. Henderson and J. B. Dakin.

1886—Wm. Henderson, chairman; H. J. Willis and J. B. Dakin.

1887—J. B. Dakin, chairman; Wm. Henderson and H. J. Willis.

1888—H. J. Willis, chairman; Wm. Henderson and E. R. Lloyd.

1889—Wm. Henderson, chairman; E. R. Lloyd and G. A. Watts.

1890—E. R. Lloyd, chairman; Wm. Henderson and G. A. Watts.

1891—G. A. Watts, chairman; Wm. Henderson and John West.

1892—Wm. Henderson, chairman; John West and D. H. Palmeter.

1893—John West, chairman; D. H. Palmeter and A. D. Kerr.

1894—D. H. Palmeter, chairman; A. D. Kerr and O. T. Dennison.

1895—A. D. Kerr, chairman; G. A. Watts and O. T. Dennison.

1896—A. D. Kerr, chairman; O. T. Dennison and G. A. Watts.

1897—G. A. Watts, chairman; A. D. Kerr and H. I. Smith.

1898—H. I. Smith, chairman; A. D. Kerr and J. P. Hill.

1899—J. P. Hill, chairman; W. V. Crapser and A. A. Crossley.

1900—J. P. Hill, chairman; W. V. Crapser and A. A. Crossley.

1901—W. V. Crapser, chairman; J. P. Hill and A. A. Crossley.

- 1902—W. V. Crapser, chairman; J. P. Hill and A. A. Crossley.  
 1903—J. P. Hill, chairman; A. A. Crossley and W. V. Crapser.  
 1904—W. V. Crapser, chairman; A. A. Crossley, B. A. Brown.  
 1905—A. A. Crossley, chairman; B. A. Brown, J. H. Brown.  
 1906—B. A. Brown, chairman; A. A. Crossley, J. H. Brown.  
 1907—J. H. Brown, chairman; W. W. Narramore, B. A. Brown.  
 1908—W. W. Narramore, chairman; B. A. Brown, J. H. Brown.  
 1909—B. A. Brown, chairman; J. H. Brown, C. E. Somers.  
 1910—J. H. Brown, chairman; C. E. Somers, A. N. Grimm.  
 J. H. Brown died April 6, 1910, and W. V. Crapser was appointed to fill out the unexpired term.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

At the time of the organization of the county in 1855, the office of county judge was by far the most important in the gift of the people and it was, other conditions being favorable, to the leading citizen that the office was given. Its duties were substantially those now performed by the board of supervisors, as well as much of those which now devolve on the county auditor and clerk of the courts..

In 1855, John B. Long was, beyond doubt, the leading citizen of the county and, at the election at which the county was organized, he was chosen to fill the exalted office of judge of the county.

Beginning with John B. Long in 1855, is given below the names and period of official incumbency, of the different judges who occupied the county bench during the twelve years which elapsed before the abolition of the office in 1869, counting from one election to another.

John B. Long,	1855-1856
J. S. Church,	1856-1859
George Vermilya,	1859-1861
Marcus Tuttle,	1861-1863
Elisha Randall,	1863-1865
W. E. Thompson,	1865-1867
George E. Frost,	1867-1869

In 1869 the office of county judge was abolished and the office of county auditor created.

*County Auditors.*

Charles B. Senior,	1869-1873
Silas Noyes,	1873-1875
Henry H. Shepard,	1875-1887
L. M. VanAuken,	1887-1894
J. J. Long,	1894-1900
S. B. Duffield,	1900-1906
A. S. Clark,	1906-1912

*County Treasurer and Recorder.*

When the county was organized the duties of the two offices of treasurer and recorder were performed by the same person. In the winter of 1863-4 the general assembly passed an act dividing the two offices and providing for the election of both a county treasurer and county recorder.

Henry Van Patter was the first treasurer-recorder.

Henry Van Patter,	1855-1855
Chas. W. Tenney,	1855-1857
Chas. H. Huntley,	1857-1859
H. G. Parker,	1859-1861
George Vermilya,	1861-1864

In the session of 1863-4, the general assembly passed an act which separated the dual office of treasurer-recorder into its two constituent offices and provided for the election of both a county treasurer and a county recorder.

*County Treasurer.*

George Vermilya,	1864-1865
Thos. G. Emsley,	1865-1869
H. I. Smith,	1869-1873
James Riele,	1873-1879
W. C. Tompkins,	1879-1887
D. D. Howe,	1887-1891
O. A. Brownell,	1891-1896
A. A. Cooley,	1896-1897
L. W. Phillips,	1897-1901
Will Ed. Tucker,	1901-1905
B. F. Brown,	1905-1909
L. W. Phillips,	1909-1912

*County Recorder.*

Elisha Randall,	1864-1866
Charles M. Adams,	1866-1868
Henry Keerl,	1868-1870
O. T. Denison,	1870-1876
Richard Valentine,	1876-1882
Lizzie Fitch,	1882-1888
W. H. Peedan,	1888-1894
J. H. McEwen,	1894-1900
Josephine A. Maben,	1900-1906
Helen B. Watson,	1906-1912

*Clerk of the Court.*

Henry Martin,	1855-1856
C. W. Scott,	1856-1860
H. B. Gray,	1860-1863
H. G. Parker,	1863-1864
Robert Hickling,	1864-1865
B. F. Hartshorn,	1865-1868
F. M. Rogers,	1868-1874
M. S. Schermerhorn,	1874-1880
Duncan Rule,	1880-1888
W. A. Burnap,	1888-1894
I. W. Keerl,	1894-1900
George W. Howland,	1900-1906
Ed. W. Clark,	1906-1912

*Sheriff.*

Nathan W. Stackhouse,	1855-1859
John L. McMillen,	1859-1861
Wilbur F. Hoyt,	1861-1863
Wm. B. Stillson,	1863-1865
Henry A. Marsh,	1865-1867
A. M. Thompson,	1867-1869
Wm. B. Stillson,	1869-1873
H. H. Schell,	1873-1879
E. J. Rosecrans,	1879-1885
B. P. Kerk,	1885-1891
W. C. Clark,	1891-1897
J. S. Confer,	1897-1903
C. I. Clark,	1903-1903
W. A. Holdren,	1903-1910



*County Surveyor.*

I. W. Card,	1855-1857
Alfonzo Garner,	1857-1859
J. H. T. Ambrose,	1859-1861
Charles W. Tenney,	1861-1865
George E. Frost,	1865-1867
Charles McNany,	1867-1869
C. F. Vincent,	1869-1873
W. Scott Johnson,	1873-1875
C. F. Vincent,	1875-1883
W. S. Jayne,	1883-1887
L. E. McGilvra,	1887-1891
C. F. Vincent,	1891-1897
W. S. Colby,	1897-1912

*Coroner.*

James Dickirson,	1855-1857
Alonzo Beebe,	1857-1858
Christopher Tucker,	1858-1859
T. B. Wilson,	1859-1861
Lyman Hunt,	1861-1863
A. G. Morey,	1863-1865
Anson C. Owen,	1865-1867
Gabriel Pence,	1867-1871
W. H. Stanley,	1871-1872
Harvey Brown	1872-1874
Rev. D. B. Mason,	1874-1879
W. S. Harding,	vacancy.
Dr. E. C. Miller,	1880-1887
Chas. McFarlin,	1887-1889
Dr. E. Osborne,	1889-1893
Dr. E. C. Miller,	1893-1899
Dr. B. F. Weston,	1899-1901
Dr. I. I. Nichol,	1901-1906
Dr. C. P. Smith,	1906-1910
W. E. Long,	1910-1912

*Drainage Commissioner.*

H. G. Parker,	1856-1857
George L. Bunce,	1857-1858
George Vermilya,	1858-1859
Christopher Tucker,	1859-1860
S. M. Richardson,	1860-1863
Gabriel Pence,	1863-1865
James S. Saxby,	1865-1867
Daniel Dougherty,	1867-1871
George E. Frost,	1871-1872

*County Assessor.*

Frederick Pattee,	1856-1857
James H. Tucker,	1857-1857
This office was abolished in 1857	

*County Attorney.*

J. J. Clark,	1886-1892
D. W. Hurn,	1892-1896
D. W. Telford,	1896-1902
L. C. Rinard,	1902-1905
Earl Smith,	1905-1906
Robert Witwer,	1906-1906
J. C. Robinson,	1906-1912

*County Superintendent of Schools.*

John M. Hunt,	1858-1858
Dr. W. M. Skinner,	1858-1858
Rev. Thomas Tenney,	1858-1859
John M. Brainard,	1859-1861
A. B. Tuttle,	1861-1863
George P. Griffith,	1863-1865
J. S. Church,	1865-1867
Nathan Bass,	1867-1869
A. S. Allen,	1869-1871
Prof. E. C. Moulton,	1871-1872
Mrs. J. B. Dakin,	1872-1875
Ira C. Kling,	1875-1877
M. H. Kling,	1877-1879
L. L. Klinefelter,	1879-1885
A. W. Weir,	1885-1889
A. R. Sale,	1889-1893
Eugene Brown,	1893-1899
P. O. Cole,	1899-1906
Fred Mahannah,	1906-1912

*School Fund Commissioner.*

At the time of its organization in 1855, the educational system of Cerro Gordo county, like that of the rest of the state, was, when compared with that of the present, in a very primitive condition. Teachers were examined as to their qualification by a "committee." This "committee" was appointed by the school trustees or directors and was sometimes composed of the trustees themselves and sometimes of other men or women who were possessed of influence or "edication." The trustees were the school

superintendents. The cash with which the school system was maintained was in the hands of what was termed a "School Fund Commissioner." He had nothing further to do with the schools than to take care of the funds. Following is a list of Cerro Gordo's School Fund Commissioners:

David Wright,	1855-1856
Thos. Drummond,	1856-1857
Amos B. Miller,	1857-1858
The office was then abolished.	

## CHAPTER VII.

### REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE ACT OF 1847 DIVIDING IOWA INTO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS—THE ACT OF 1862 PLACING CERRO GORDO IN THE SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT—ACT OF 1872 PLACES CERRO GORDO IN FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT—ACT OF 1882 PLACES CERRO GORDO IN TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT—ACT OF 1886 CERRO GORDO IS FINALLY PLACED IN FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT—THE STATE LEGISLATURE—ACT OF 1851—ACT OF 1853—ACT OF 1855—ACT OF 1857—ACT OF 1860—ACT OF 1862—ACT OF 1864—ACT OF 1866—ACT OF 1868—ACT OF 1870—ACT OF 1872—ACT OF 1876—ACT OF 1878—ACT OF 1882—ACT OF 1890.

On the 22nd day of February, 1847, the general assembly of the state of Iowa passed an act creating two congressional districts. The first district comprised the southern half of the settled portion of the state and consisted of the following counties: Lee, Van Buren, Wapello, Davis, Appannoose, Henry, Mahaska, Monroe, Marion, Jasper, Polk and Keokuk, and the country south of a line drawn from the northwest corner of Polk county west to the Missouri river.

The second congressional district comprised all of the northern half of the settled portion of the state and consisted of the counties of Clayton, Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson, Clinton, Jones, Linn, Poweshiek, Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Cedar, Scott, Muscatine, Washington, Louisa, Des Moines and all north of a line drawn from the northwest corner of Polk county west to the Missouri river. The territory afterward to become Cerro Gordo county was, by this first apportionment, included in the second congressional district.

This district was represented in Congress from 1846 to 1851, during the sessions of the 29th the 30th and the 31st congress by Shepherd Leffler of Burlington, a Democrat in politics and a farmer by profession.



In the 32nd congress the second district, 1851-1853, was represented by Lincoln Clark of Dubuque, a Democrat in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 33rd congress, 1853-1855, the second district was represented by John P. Cook, of Davenport, a Democrat in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 34th congress, 1855-1857, the second district was represented by James Thorington of Davenport, a Republican in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 35th congress, 1857-1859, the second district was represented by Timothy Davis of Elkaker, an American in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 36th congress, 1859-1861, the second district was represented by William Vandever, of Dubuque, a Republican in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 37th congress, 1861-1863, the second district was again represented by William Vandever, of Dubuque.

Up to 1862 there had been only a few unimportant changes made in the first and second congressional districts, such as the taking one county from one of the districts and adding it to the other for the purpose of maintaining the equilibrium of population, but by the act of 1862, the whole scheme of congressional districts was revolutionized, and in place of but two districts, the state was divided into six. In this general shake up, Cerro Gordo county passed from the second congressional district to the sixth. This district consisted of the following counties: Worth, Cerro Gordo, Black Hawk, Grundy, Butler, Franklin, Hardin, Marshall, Story, Hamilton, Wright, Hancock, Winnebago, Boone, Webster, Humboldt, Kossuth, Green, Calhoun, Pocahontas, Palo Alto, Emmet, Carroll, Sac, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickenson, Crawford, Ida, Cherokee, O'Brien, Osceola, Monona, Woodbury, Plymouth, Sioux and Lyons.

In the 38th congress, 1863-1865, the sixth congressional district was represented by Ashael W. Hubbard, of Sioux City, a Republican and a lawyer.

In the 39th congress, 1865-1867, the district was again represented by Ashael W. Hubbard of Sioux City.

In the 40th congress, 1867-1869, the sixth district was represented by Ashael W. Hubbard.

In the 41st congress, from 1869-1871, the sixth district was

represented by Charles Pomeroy, of Ft. Dodge, a Republican, and a farmer.

In the 42nd congress, from 1871-1873, the sixth district was represented by Jackson Orr, of Boonsboro, a Republican and a merchant.

By the act of 1872, Iowa was divided into nine congressional districts. Under this new apportionment Cerro Gordo county was placed in the fourth congressional district, composed of the following counties: Black Hawk, Bremer, Chickasaw, Howard, Mitchell, Floyd, Butler, Grundy, Hardin, Franklin, Cerro Gordo and Worth.

In the 43rd congress, from 1873-1875, the fourth district was represented by Henry O. Pratt, of Charles City, a Republican and a lawyer.

In the 44th congress, from 1875-1877, the fourth district was represented by Henry O. Pratt, of Charles City.

In the 45th congress, from 1877-1879, the fourth district was represented by N. C. Deering, of Osage, a Republican and a banker.

In the 46th congress, from 1879 to 1881, the fourth district was represented by N. C. Deering of Osage.

In the 47th congress, from 1881-1883, the fourth district was again represented by N. C. Deering, of Osage.

By the act of March 23rd, 1882, Iowa was again redistricted and Cerro Gordo county was taken from the fourth and placed in the tenth congressional district. The tenth congressional district was composed of the following counties: Boone, Story, Hardin, Hamilton, Webster, Franklin, Wright, Humboldt, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Winnebago and Kossuth.

In the 48th congress from 1883-1885, the tenth congressional district was represented by Adoniram J. Holmes, of Boone, a Republican and a lawyer.

In the 49th congress, 1885-1887, the tenth congressional district was again represented by Adoniram J. Holmes.

By the act of April 10, 1886, Iowa was again redistricted. By this re-apportionment Cerro Gordo county was transferred from the tenth back to the fourth congressional district. The fourth congressional district as constituted by the act of April 10, 1886, contained the following counties: Clayton, Allamakee, Fayette, Winneshiek, Howard, Chickasaw, Floyd, Mitchell, Worth and Cerro Gordo.

In the 50th congress, 1887-1889, the fourth congressional district was represented by William E. Fuller, of West Union, a Republican in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 51st congress, 1889-1891, the fourth district was represented by Joseph H. Sweeney, of Osage, a Republican in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 52nd congress, 1891-1893, the fourth district was represented by Walt. H. Butler, of West Union, a Democrat in politics and a journalist by profession.

In the 53rd congress, 1893-1895, the fourth district was represented by Thomas Updegraff, of McGregor, a Republican in politics and a lawyer by profession.

In the 54th and 55th congress, 1895-1899, the fourth district was represented by Thomas Updegraff.

In the 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th and 61st congress, 1899-1911, the fourth district was represented by Gilbert N. Haugen, of Northwood, a Republican in politics and a banker by profession.

#### THE LEGISLATURE.

It was not until 1851 that the whole state was finally divided into separate counties. Prior to that time there had been a large amount of unorganized territory, practically without inhabitants and without local civil government or representation in the legislature. In 1851, however, this territory having been subdivided into counties, the general assembly, by an act of that year, apportioned the whole state into legislative districts and allotted to each district its proper representation in the senate and house of the legislature. It should be borne in mind, that many of the counties at the time of the passage of the act of 1851 were still unorganized and remained so for several years thereafter.

Cerro Gordo county, although unorganized, was placed in the sixteenth legislative district, composed of the following counties: Dallas, Greene, Polk, Boone, Story, Marshall, Risley, Fox, Will, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Wright, Hardin, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Emmet, Bancroft, Winnebago and Worth. The sixteenth district was entitled by the act of 1851, to one member of the senate and three members of the house.

The first general assembly to meet after this apportionment was the forty-first, which convened at Iowa City, December 6, 1852, and adjourned January 24, 1853. The sixteenth district was repre-

sented in the senate by Andrew J. Hull; in the house, by J. F. Rice, J. C. Goodson and Benjamin Greene.

The fifth general assembly convened at Iowa City, December 4, 1854, and re-convened in extra session in July, 1855, immediately after adjournment of the regular session. The sixteenth district was represented in the senate by James C. Jordan. Cerro Gordo county had been districted by the act of 1853, in the third representative district and was represented in the house by Jacob W. Rogers.

The fifth general assembly again re-convened in extra session July 2, 1856, and adjourned July 16, 1856. Cerro Gordo county was now organized and as stated formed a part of the third representative district which was composed of the counties of Cerro Gordo, Fayette, Black Hawk, Bremer, Chickasaw, Howard, Mitchell, Floyd, Butler, Grundy, Franklin and Worth.

The act of 1855 for the redistricting and reapportionment of the state was comprehensive and completely remodeled the legislative map. It established thirty-four senatorial and forty-eight representative districts, numbered each district separately and apportioned among them thirty-six senators and seventy-two representatives. By this apportionment, Cerro Gordo county was placed in the thirty-fourth senatorial district and in the forty-eighth representative district. Each of these districts was apportioned a single member. The thirty-fourth senatorial district was composed of the counties of Allamakee, Winneshiek, Howard, Chickasaw, Mitchell, Floyd, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, Hancock and Kossuth. The forty-eighth representative district was composed of the counties of Kossuth, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Butler, Grundy, Bremer and Chickasaw.

The sixth general assembly convened at Iowa City December 1, 1856, and adjourned January 29, 1857. The thirty-fourth senatorial district was represented by Jeremiah T. Atkins, and the forty-eighth representative district by E. R. Gillette of Chickasaw county.

The act which was approved January 27, 1857, was the last effort at legislative districting and apportionment under the old constitution of 1846, under which the state was organized. This act of 1857 related solely to representative districts and the apportionment of representatives. The senatorial districts remained the same as under the act of 1855. By the act of 1857 Cerro Gordo county was placed in the thirteenth representative district



which embraced the counties of Worth, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Winnebago, Hancock, Wright, Humboldt, Kossuth, Emmet, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Calhoun, Sac, Buena Vista, Clay and Dickinson. The thirteenth district was assigned one member.

The 7th general assembly met at Des Moines January 11, 1858 and adjourned March 23, 1858. Jeremiah T. Atkins was still senator. In the house, the thirteenth district was represented by Cyrus C. Carpenter of Ft. Dodge.

At its first regular session under the constitution of 1857, the general assembly passed two acts of legislative apportionments; one for the senate and one for the house. The ratio for the senatorial apportionment was fixed at 17,200 inhabitants, or fraction thereof exceeding one-half in each senatorial district. For the house the ratio was fixed at one representative for each 7,000 inhabitants or fraction thereof exceeding one half in each representative district. By this act Cerro Gordo county was placed in senatorial district number forty and representative district number fifty-eight. The senatorial district was composed of the counties of Howard, Chickasaw, Mitchell, Floyd, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, Hancock, Wright. The fifty-eighth representative district comprised the counties of Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Worth, Winnebago and Hancock.

The 8th general assembly convened at Des Moines January 8, 1860, and adjourned April 3, 1860. It also convened in extra session May 15, 1861, and adjourned May 29, 1861. The fortieth senatorial district was represented by Julius H. Powers, of New Hampton, Chickasaw county, and the fifty-eighth representative district was represented by Elbridge G. Bowdoin of Rockford, Floyd county.

The reapportionment of 1860 had no other effect on Cerro Gordo county than to change the number of the district from fifty-eight to fifty-four. The senatorial district remained the same.

The 9th general assembly convened at Des Moines, January 13, 1862, and adjourned April 8, 1862. It also convened in extra session, September 3, 1862, and adjourned September 11, 1862. The fortieth senatorial district was represented by George W. Howard, of Chickasaw, and the fifty-fourth representative district by Elbridge G. Bowdoin of Floyd county.

By the reapportionment of 1862 Cerro Gordo county was placed in the forty-second senatorial district, embracing the counties of Howard, Chickasaw, Mitchell, Floyd, Worth, Cerro Gordo

and in the fifty-fourth representative district embracing the two counties of Cerro Gordo and Floyd.

The tenth general assembly convened at Des Moines January 11, 1864, and adjourned May 29, 1864. The forty-second senatorial district was represented by John G. Patterson of Charles City, Floyd county and the fifty-fourth representative district by A. B. F. Hildreth also from Charles City.

By the apportionment of 1864, Cerro Gordo county was placed in the forty-fourth senatorial district which comprised the counties of Worth, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Winnebago, Hancock, Wright, Webster, Humboldt, Kossuth, Emmet, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Calhoun, Sac, Buena Vista, Clay and Dickinson. The representative district remained the same except that the number was changed to fifty-six.

The 11th general assembly convened at Des Moines January 8, 1866, and adjourned April 3, 1866. The forty-fourth senatorial district was represented by George W. Bassett of Ft. Dodge, Webster county; the fifty-sixth representative district by W. P. Gaylord, of Rock Grove, Floyd county.

By the apportionment of 1866 Cerro Gordo county was placed in the thirty-ninth senatorial district which comprised the counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Butler and Grundy and in the fifty-ninth representative district, embracing the counties of Kossuth, Winnebago and Cerro Gordo.

The 12th general assembly convened at Des Moines in January 1868. The thirty-ninth senatorial district was represented by Marcus Tuttle of Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo county, and the fifty-ninth representative district by C. W. Tenney, of Plymouth, also of Cerro Gordo county. This was the first time Cerro Gordo county was directly represented in the legislature and it was a curious coincidence that with its first direct representation it should monopolize the members of both house and senate.

By the apportionment of 1868 Cerro Gordo county was placed in the forty-sixth senatorial district, composed of the counties of Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Wright, Franklin, Hancock and Cerro Gordo and in the sixty-fifth representative district comprising the counties of Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Cerro Gordo.

The 13th general assembly convened in Des Moines in January 1870. As in the twelfth general assembly, Cerro Gordo county

had both the senator, Marcus Tuttle, of Clear Lake, and the representative, B. F. Hartshorn, of Mason City.

By the apportionment of 1870 Cerro Gordo county was left in the forty-sixth senatorial district and the representative was the same except that the number was changed from sixty-five to sixty-six.

The 14th general assembly met in Des Moines in January, 1872. The forty-sixth senatorial district was represented by E. A. Howland of Otisville of Franklin county and the sixty-sixth representative district by David Secor of Forrest City, Winnebago county.

By the apportionment of 1872, Cerro Gordo county was still left in the forty-sixth senatorial district and was placed on the sixty-eighth representative district composed of the two counties of Cerro Gordo and Franklin.

In the 15th general assembly which met in Des Moines in January, 1874, Cerro Gordo county was represented in the senate by E. A. Howland, of Franklin county and in the house by Michael J. Leahy of Hampton, Franklin county.

In the 16th general assembly which met in Des Moines in January, 1876, Cerro Gordo county remained in the same legislative districts as in 1874, and was represented in the senate by Lemuel Dwelle, of Northwood, of Worth county, and in the house by Lorenzo O. Lane of Hampton, Franklin county.

By the apportionment of 1876 Cerro Gordo county was placed in the forty-seventh senatorial district composed of the counties of Franklin, Cerro Gordo, Worth, Winnebago, Hancock and Wright. No change was made in the representative district.

In the 17th general assembly of 1878, Cerro Gordo county was represented in the senate by Lemuel Dwelle of Northwood, Worth county, and in the house by John H. King of Hampton, Franklin county.

In the apportionment of 1878, by the 17th general assembly, no change was made in the senatorial district and no change in the representative district other than the change in the number from sixty-eight to seventy-eight.

In the 18th general assembly, 1880, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by Frank M. Goodykoontz of Mason City, and in the house by John H. King of Hampton.

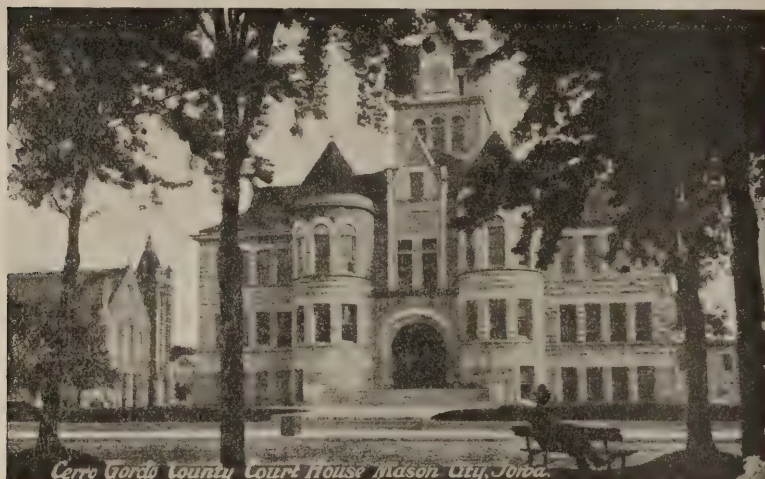
There was no change made in the apportionment of 1880 so far as Cerro Gordo was concerned.



In the 19th general assembly which met in Des Moines in January, 1882, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by H. G. Parker of Mason City and at the house by R. S. Benson of Hampton.

In the apportionment of 1882, Cerro Gordo was placed in the forty-third senatorial district along with the counties of Winnebago, Hancock, Franklin, and in the eighty-seventh representative district which for the first time coincided with the boundaries of the county.

In the 20th general assembly, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by John D. Glass of Mason City and in the house by Norman Densmore of Rockwell.



*Cerro Gordo County Court House Mason City, Iowa.*

In the 21st general assembly, 1886, Cerro Gordo was represented in both house and senate by the same members as in the 20th general assembly and the districts were unchanged.

In the apportionment of 1886 Cerro Gordo was placed in the forty-third senatorial district consisting of the counties of Franklin, Cerro Gordo and Hancock. The number of the representative district was changed from eighty-seven to eighty-six.

In the 22nd general assembly, 1888, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by N. V. Brower of Garner, Hancock county, and by James E. Blythe of Mason City.

In the 23rd general assembly, 1890, both districts and repre-



sentation remained the same as in the 22nd general assembly except that the number of the representative district was changed from eighty-six to eighty-four.

In the 24th general assembly, 1892, Cerro Gordo was represented in the house by M. E. Bitterman and in the senate by N. V. Brower.

In the 25th general assembly, 1894, the representation in the legislature was the same as in the last.

In the 26th general assembly Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by W. F. Harriman of Hampton, and in the house by John W. Bird of Owen, and also at the extra session of 1897.

In the 27th general assembly, 1898, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by W. F. Harriman and John W. Bird in the house.

In the 28th general assembly, 1900, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by W. F. Harriman of Hampton and by David W. Hurn of Clear Lake, in the house.

In the 29th general assembly the representation both senate and house remained the same as in the twenty-eighth.

In the 30th general assembly, 1904, Cerro Gordo county was represented in the senate by A. H. Gale of Mason City, and in the house by John S. Stanbery also of Mason City.

In the 31st general assembly, 1906, the representation was the same as in the 30th.

In the 32nd general assembly, 1907, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by John Hammil of Britt, Hancock county, and in the house by Charles Marston of Mason City.

In the 33rd general assembly, 1909, the representation remained the same as in the 32nd.

In the 34th general assembly, Cerro Gordo was represented in the senate by John Hammil of Britt, and by Arthur Pickford in the house.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### COUNTY ELECTIONS.

#### ELECTORAL HISTORY—PROHIBITION.

Below we give an abstract of the vote of Cerro Gordo county from the first election in 1855, down to the year 1870, which closes the old regime of pioneer days. From 1855 down to and including 1860 the full vote cast together with names of the candidates is given. After 1860 to 1870 only the vote for county officers and members of the legislature is given:

#### Election August 7, 1855.

- County Judge.—J. B. Long, 49—48; Silas Card, 1.  
Clerk of Court—Henry Martin, 48—46; Elisha Randall, 2.  
Prosecuting Attorney—C. B. Raymond, 33—24; E. Randall, 9.  
Treasurer and Recorder—Henry Van Patter, 52.  
School Fund Commissioner—David Wright, 44—33; Richard Morris, 9.  
Surveyor—I. W. Card, 35—21; J. B. Randall, 14.  
Sheriff—W. W. Stackhouse, 31—14; J. L. Stewart, 17; J. Van Curen, 2.  
Coroner—James Dickirson, 52—51; Alanson Beebe, 1.

#### Election, February, 1856.

In favor of county taking railroad bonds, 80.

#### Election, November 4, 1856.

Delegate to Constitutional Convention—John T. Clark, 101—87; Samuel F. Gilchrist, 14.

Election, April, 1856.

School Fund Commissioner—Thomas Drummond, 60—13; Marcus Tuttle, 47.

Drainage Commissioner—Horace G. Parker, 106—104; Horace C. Parker, 2.

Election, August, 1856.

Secretary of State—Elijah Sells, 72—42; George Snyder, 30.

Auditor of State—John Pattee, 71—41; James Pollard, 30.

State Treasurer—M. L. Morris, 72—42; George Paul, 30.

Attorney General—S. A. Rice, 71—41; James Baker, 30.

State Senator—Jeremiah Atkins, 68—44; Mr. Calogg, 24; Wm. Patte, 1.

Representative—E. R. Gillette, 57—3; Wm. Patte, 49.

Election, November 4, 1856.

President—John C. Fremont, Rep., 101—51; James Buchanan Dem., 50.

Election, April, 1857.

Superintendent of Instruction—L. H. Bugbee, 96—62; M. L. Fisher, 34.

Commissioner Des Moines River Improvement—Edward Manning, 97—69; G. L. Bailey, 28; G. Porter, 3.

Register State Land Office—Wm. H. Holmes, 91—60; T. S. Parrin, 31.

School Fund Commissioner—Amos B. Miller, 117—67; Paul Felt, 50.

Treasurer and Recorder—C. H. Huntley, 119—71; Chas. C. McNany, 48.

Assessor—F. Patte, 103—38; E. D. Stockton, 65.

Election, August, 1857.

County Judge—Jarvis S. Church, 157—152; Scattering, 5.

Sheriff—N. W. Stackhouse, 89—15; John Millen, 74; Scattering, 2.

Treasurer and Recorder—Chas. H. Huntley, 167—166; J. H. T. Ambrose, 1.

Surveyor—Alfonzo Garner, 151—150; J. Church Porter, 1; Scattering, 1.

Assessor—James H. Tucker, 165—164; Porter Jarvis, 1.

Coroner—Alonzo Beebe, 118—98; Alanson Beebe, 20.

Drainage Commissioner—George L. Bunce, 127—104; George Vermilya, 23.

New Constitution—For, 118—78; Against, 40.

Allowing Negroes the right of suffrage—Against, 78—16; For, 62.

#### Election, October, 1857.

Governor—R. P. Lowe, 81—49; B. Samuels, 32.

Lieutenant-Governor—Orvin Faville, 78—43; George Gillespie 35.

Representative—C. C. Carpenter, 73—33; John F. Duncomb, 40.

#### Election, April, 1858.

Location of County Seat—Mason City, 155—107; Livonia, 48.

Superintendent of Schools—John M. Hunt, 156.

Drainage Commissioner—George Vermilya, 175.

Coroner—Christopher Tucker, 190—189; Henry Van Patter, 1.

#### Election, June, 1858.

State Banks—For the system, 43.

General Banking Law—For, 47.

Shall a Court House be built—For, 35—28; Against, 7.

#### Election, October, 1859.

Governor—S. J. Kirkwood, 117—45; A. C. Dodge, 72.

Lieutenant-Governor—N. J. Kusch, 113—38; L. W. Babbitt, 75.

Supreme Judge—R. P. Lowe, 117; Caleb Baldwin, 117; L. D.



Stockton, 116; T. S. Wilson, 72; C. C. Cole, 72; Charles Mason, 73.

State Senator 30th District—J. H. Powers, 101; Moses Conger, 72; E. P. Powers, 7.

Representative 58th District—E. G. Bowdoin, 108—30; W. C. Stanbery, 78.

County Judge—George Vermilya, 129—75; Edgar Osborne, 54.

Treasurer and Recorder—H. G. Parker, 121—56; Wellington Benton, 65.

Sheriff—John L. McMillen, 116—50; M. S. Snow, 56.

Superintendent of Schools—John M. Brainard, 117—54; A. B. Tuttle, 63.

Drainage Commissioner—Christopher Tucker, 117—54; G. W. Henderson, 63.

Coroner—T. B. Wilson, 185.

Surveyor—J. H. T. Ambrose, 116—50; C. W. Tenney, 66.

#### Election, November, 1860.

President—Abraham Lincoln, 157—99; Stephen A. Douglas, 58.

Member Congress 2nd District—William Vandever, 151—92; Ben Samuels, 59.

Supreme Judge—George G. Wright, 152—142; I. N. Ellwood, 10.

Secretary of State—Elijah Sells, 153—85; J. M. Corse, 68.

State Auditor—S. W. Cattell, 153—85; George W. Maxfield, 68.

State Treasurer—John W. Jones, 153—85; J. W. Ellis, 68.

Attorney General—Charles C. Nourse, 152—84; W. McClintock, 68.

Register of State Land Office—Amos B. Miller, 148—81; Patrick Robb, 67.

Member Board of Education—D. D. Chase, 156—94; H. P. Williams, 62.

Clerk of Court—H. B. Gray, 96—10; Solomon Zuver, 86; F. B. Frisbee, 34; Gray, 1.

## Election, October, 1861.

Representative—E. G. Bowdoin, 116—12; J. G. Patterson, 104.  
County Judge—Marcus Tuttle, 107—5; Thomas Perrett, 102.  
Treasurer and Recorder—George Vermilya, 128—36; Silas Card, 92; C. H. Huntley, 1.  
Sheriff—W. F. Hoyt, 134—41; James Goodwin, 93.  
School Superintendent—A. B. Tuttle, 112—5; W. B. Church, 107.  
Drainage Commissioner—S. M. Richardson, 122—23; T. B. Willson, 99.  
Surveyor—George E. Frost, 129—43; A. Garner, 86.  
Coroner—Lyman Hunt, 123—24; Gabriel Pence, 99.

## Election, June, 1862.

State Senator—George W. Howard, 77—71; W. C. Stanberry, 6; Scattering, 2.

## Election, October, 1862.

District Judge—John Porter, 153—139; H. E. J. Boardman, 14; A. Wilson, 1.  
District Attorney—D. D. Chase, 150—132; J. S. Frasier, 18; I. W. Card, 1.  
Member Board of Education—John M. Brainard, 157.  
Clerk of Court—H. B. Gray, 99—55; Edwin Hamblin, 44; P. S. Beeber, 41.

## Election, October, 1863.

State Senator—G. Patterson, 160—133; N. M. Hilder, 27.  
Representative—A. B. F. Hildreth, 155—130; John Blunt, 25; Scattering, 2.  
County Judge—Elisha Randall, 158—155; T. B. Wilson, 3; Mr. Wilson, 1.  
Treasurer and Recorder—George Vermilya, 176.  
Clerk of Court—Horace G. Parker, 154.  
Sheriff—W. B. Stilson, 172—165; James Goodwin, 7.  
Surveyor—Charles W. Tenney, 167—164; Scattering, 3.

School Superintendent—George P. Griffith, 107—40; J. L. Church, 67; S. S. Church, 1.

Coroner—A. G. Morey, 163.

Drainage Commissioner—Gabriel Pence, 161.

Election, November 8, 1864.

Clerk of Court—Robert Hickling, 116—24; W. C. Stanberry, 92; Watson F. Thompson, 22; Scattering, 3.

Recorder—Elisha Randall, 162—100; Matthew R. Dexter, 62; Scattering, 3.

Election, October, 1865.

County Judge—Watson E. Thompson, 264—263; Henry Dibble, 1.

County Treasurer—Thomas G. Ensley, 267.

Sheriff—Henry A. Marsh, 257—255; Ira Williams, 2.

Superintendent—Jarvis S. Church, 213—176; Henry Martin, 37; G. P. Griffith, 5.

Surveyor—G. E. Frost, 265—264; Jarvis S. Church, 1.

Coroner—Anson C. Owen, 266.

Drainage Commissioner—James S. Saxby, 256—255; G. E. Frost, 1; H. L. Smith, 1.

Election, October, 1866.

Clerk of District Court—B. F. Hartshorn, 335—333; E. Bogardus, 2.

Recorder—Charles M. Adams, 223—112; Matthew R. Dexter, 111.

Election, October 8, 1867.

Senator 39th District—Marcus Tuttle, 279—208; C. A. L. Rozelle, 71; W. A. Lathrop, 27; Rozelle, 1; B. C. Way, 1.

Representative 59th District—C. W. Tenney, 215—37; M. P. Rosecrans, 178; Rosecrans, 3.

County Judge—George E. Frost, 330—321; William Spicer, 9; W. E. Thompson, 8; Thompson, 1; Nathan Bass, 1; E. Crowell, 1; W. C. Thompson, 1.

County Treasurer—Thomas G. Ensley, 366—365; Frank Rogers, 1; Henry Kurl, 1; Henry Dibble, 1.

Sheriff—A. M. Thompson, 329—319; Will Ed. Tucker, 10; Old Man Cummings, 1; W. B. Stilson, 1; Matt Dexter, 1; Heck Dibble, 1; J. F. Turner, 1.

County Superintendent—Nathan Bass, 270—157; Henry Martin, 113; Bass, 3; Martin, 1.

Surveyor—Charles McNany, 278—178; A. C. Owen, 100; George E. Frost, 1.

Coroner—Gabriel Pence, 342—241; T. G. Ensley, 1; Willard Dart, 1.

Drainage Commissioner—Daniel Dougherty, 342—341; I. W. Card, 1; George Rider, 1; James Serrine, 1.

Election, November 6, 1868.

Recorder—Henry Kurl, 443—442; C. Adams, 1.

Clerk District Court—F. M. Rogers, 359—234; Henry A. Marsh, 125; H. E. Marsh, 1; B. F. Hartshorn, 1; Henry Kurl, 1.

Election, October 12, 1869.

Representative 65th District—B. F. Hartshorn, 368—126; M. P. Rosecrans, 232.

County Treasurer—Henry I. Smith, 524—444; John Chestnut, 80.

County Auditor—Charles B. Senior, 443—373; W. E. Thompson, 70; D. Dougherty, 68; Scattering, 2.

Sheriff—William B. Stilson, 434—289; F. Trevitt, 145; Alonzo Wilson, 10.

County Superintendent—A. S. Allen, 331—79; Nathan Bass, 252; Scattering, 5.

County Surveyor—C. F. Vincent, 441—365; F. McMullen, 76; George Frost, 70; Scattering, 3.

Election, October 11, 1870.

Clerk District and Circuit Courts—F. M. Rogers, 643.

County Recorder—Owen T. Dennison, 648.



## THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

The writer of a history of Cerro Gordo county is not called upon to go into anything like a history of temperance agitation in Iowa, nor would it be proper for him to do so. In a general way it may be said that in the very early pioneer times there was but little really vital interest taken in the subject, each man being in quite a large degree left to follow the bent of his desires. As time passed, however, and the country became more thickly settled and the number and size of the towns and cities increased, the temperance question became more of an issue. As has always been the case in Iowa and elsewhere, there were extremists on both sides of the question. On the one hand were those who would have the traffic in intoxicants absolutely prohibited, on the other extreme were those who were against even the slightest restriction. Between these two extremes there was never any room for compromise. Uncompromising extremists are seldom in a majority. They certainly were not in Iowa so far as the temperance question was concerned. A majority looked upon the sale, manufacture and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage as an evil only in its abuse, and therefore to be regulated and controlled, and not as a crime, per se, to be prohibited. As a result, for some time prior to 1882, it had become the settled temperance policy of the state to permit the sale and manufacture of ale, wine and beer, as a beverage, under certain restrictions and regulations, and to prohibit the sale and manufacture of distilled liquors.

Had the liquor dealers been wise and kept the law in both letter and spirit, the chances are that this "*modus vivendi*" would have lasted indefinitely, but they were not wise and violated the law openly and constantly both in letter and spirit. In direct consequence the prohibitionists continued to increase in both zeal and members until, finally, a majority in both branches of the legislature favorable to prohibition was secured and an amendment to the constitution of the state absolutely prohibiting both the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in Iowa was formally submitted to the people. This amendment was voted on at a special election held in the month of July, 1882.

As an indication of the status of temperance sentiment in Cerro Gordo county at that time, the vote on the amendment is given below showing majorities for and against in the different

townships. It will be noted that Mason City was at that time counted as a part of Mason township. The separation did not occur until sometime afterwards.

	Majority For	Majority Against
Mason township	230	
Lime Creek	17	
Bath		
Falls	101	
Portland	63	
Owen	21	
Geneseo	25	
Pleasant Valley	11	
Grimes	7	
Lake	76	
Clear Lake	73	
Mt. Vernon	32	
Union		5
Dougherty		29
Grant	26	
Lincoln	47	
Total	845	34
Majority for amendment	811	

## CHAPTER IX.

### CERRO GORDO DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

“WAR TIMES”—CONDITIONS IN CERRO GORDO AT BREAKING OUT OF WAR—THE “HOME GUARDS”—THE PATRIOTIC UPRISING—WAR MEETINGS—THE MEN AND THE WAR AND THE WOMEN AND THE WAR—THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN “WAR TIME”—THE WAR SONGS—WHAT THE WAR MEANT TO THE MEN AT THE FRONT AND WHAT IT MEANT TO THE WOMEN AT HOME—THE DARKEST HOUR OF THE WAR—PATRIOTIC ACTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—GOING OF THE FIRST VOLUNTEERS—ROSTER OF CERRO GORDO SOLDIERS—“DEAD ON THE FIELD OF HONOR.”

Who that lived through them can ever forget “War Times”? They were different from all other times. Those who were born since, have missed something of life they can never find elsewhere, in this world or the next. There was an “atmosphere” that cannot be described but must have been lived in, in order to be understood. They were days that tried the souls of men and women. They were days of tears and sorrow, but they were also days of exaltation and uplift of spirit. They were days of sacrifice, but of sacrifice that ennobled and purified and glorified.

The total population of Cerro Gordo county in 1860 was but 940, counting men, women and children.. This population was settled as the four small villages of Mason City, Clear Lake, Shell Rock Falls and Plymouth, and a few scattering farmers around Clear Lake, Linn Grove, Owen’s Grove and along the Lime and the Shell Rock. A few of these were fairly well to do as wealth was counted in those days of small fortunes, but by far the greater part were poor and many of them were on the verge of actual want. It was this humble and sparse population that heard the cry to arms that went forth from the National Capital riding on the same blast that bore to every city, village and country side of the whole North the echoes of the bombardment of Fort Sumter. It was this humble people who read in their belated weekly newspapers the

news of the capture of Fort Sumter, the shooting of Colonel Ellsworth, the attack on the Sixth Massachusetts regiment by the plug-uglies of Baltimore as it was hurrying to Washington to protect it from capture by the rebel hordes and then, in the long, hot, dusty days of midsummer, of that crowning disaster, the defeat and utter rout of the Union army at Bull Run.

Long before President Lincoln called on the county for its quota of troops the people were ready and anxiously waiting for a chance to enroll themselves in the Grand Army of the North, the army of the nation. In the early days of 1861 there had been a successful movement made and the organization perfected of a company of "Home Guards," called the "Cerro Gordo County Guards," the commanding officer being Captain George A. Fuller. No sooner had the news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter reached the scattered settlements of this distant frontier than men of village and farm began to discover here and there an old and forgotten drum or a long disused fife and quite unsuspected personages revealed themselves as drummers and fifers and straight-way became the heroes of the boys and the envy of the men of the settlements. Even before the direful news of the disaster at Bull Run had crawled westward to our settlements, C. W. Tenney, at the June session of the board of supervisors, had presented a resolution to the board which provided for the appropriation of \$100 and the purchase of two tenor drums, one bass drum and two fifes, which were to be the property of the county and kept in the custody of the county clerk. This was the first board of supervisors the county ever had and was composed of the following members: Elisha Randall, of Mason; J. J. Rogers, of Geneseo; Anson C. Owen, of Owen; John M. Hunt, of Portland; John Gardner, of Lake; C. W. Tenney, of Falls.

Early in the summer of 1861 the "War Meetings" commenced. They were generally held at night but, on special occasions, before the war was over, there were war rallies in the day time as well. At these war meetings there were patriotic songs and patriotic speeches and, generally, martial music. Boys of twelve and fourteen who attended these first war meetings went to the front as soldiers before the long war was ended. It was at these revival meetings of patriotism that the recruits were gathered in but the preliminary work was done elsewhere, in the everyday walks of life, for the whole country was one great war meeting. In the village of Mason City, in the hamlets over on the Shell Rock, in the



village of Clear Lake, in the lonely cabins of the settlers along the valley of the Lime, down at Linn Grove, over at Owen's Grove, up around the lake and up and down the Shell Rock, for over four long years the people were talking about the war. When people met in the village store, during the day or evening; when farmers met at the grist mill or the saw mill and waited for their grist or hauled in their saw logs or loaded their hardwood lumber; when they met on the prairie trail, in their wagons; when they went to the place of the neighboring settler to borrow some article or exchange work; when with their wives and children they went to church or to visit friend, relative or neighbor on a Sunday; everywhere the men, young, old and middle aged, were ever talking of the war, of battles lost or won, of marches, of friends and relatives at the front, of generals, of campaigns, of new calls for troops, of who had gone and who was going, of volunteer enlistment and of the draft, of hauling firewood, going to mill, of putting in and taking off the crops for the "war widows" and their families. Nothing but the war.

But the men were not the only ones who talked and thought about the war in those days of the "war time," long ago. The women too never for an hour together forgot the war, although they thought and talked of it in a different way from the men. To the women the war was a purely personal matter. To them the whys and wherefores, the proximate and approximate causes which produced the war were altogether irrelevant and immaterial. The taking of their loved ones was the great concrete fact which interested them and they hated the South and "Jeff" Davis because it was "Jeff" Davis and the South that made the war, and the war separated them for years or for life from those they loved. To them the "Trent Affair," with the tremendous perils to the nation which lurked within its shadows, was nothing. When a great battle was fought they were not uplifted because it was a victory or dejected because it was a defeat for the North. If their heroes, their personal kith and kin were in the battle and escaped harm, they rejoiced; if their kith or kin were in the battle and were killed or desperately wounded they wept and were inconsolable. Before their men, husbands, sons, fathers, brothers and sweethearts enlisted, the women folk were ever fearful lest they might listen to the call to arms, and after they had enlisted, while they felt a certain pride as their heroes marched away to Dixie, their sorrow and regret were greater than their pride and they would rather

they remained at home, even at the cost of the finger of scorn. The women of the North and South remained implacable long after the blue and the gray had been mutually forgiven.

The boys showed greater responsiveness to the environments of "war times" than the girls. This was partly because boys are of coarser fiber than girls, partly because they saw and heard more of the things that were going on pertaining to the war and partly because for a hundred thousand generations the male of the genus homo has fought for love and loved to fight. A hundred thousand summers ago the cave man with stone and club stood at the entrance to his cavern and fought back the wild beast and wild men who sought to despoil him of his mate and offspring; and when, in the fullness of time, he fell with his beetling brow to the foe, his eldest son leaped into his father's place and lived if he could and died if he must, fighting for his home and his blood. Every returning soldier who wore uniform, discharged or furloughed, was a hero to the boys, who watched in awe and silent worship. Battle pictures, war songs, marching men, martial music, an army gun, a uniform, a flag, a hot war speech, a heated argument about the war, these all caught and held the interest of the boys. But the supreme aspiration of the boy was to be old enough to enlist and himself be a soldier. However, if the girls couldn't play soldier and enlist when they grew up, they could not only learn the words and music of the war songs quicker and more accurately than the boys, but they could also sing them far better, and, on this account, at spelling schools and "exhibitions" in the country and village school-houses they far outshone the boys.

And the "war songs!" Who that heard them in "war time" will ever forget them and the part they played in the great drama that was being enacted in this country of ours? "John Brown" was the first to reach the Cerro Gordo settlements, as it was the first and, judging by results, greatest of the war songs. One could imagine the mighty soul of the Old Man of Ossawatimie striding through the North, a gigantic shadow figure looming to the clouds, beckoning to the people of the North with one hand while with the other he pointed an avenging finger toward the land whose people shot his comrades to death at the Arsenal and hanged him at Harper's Ferry. The song was sung everywhere in the North. And in every camp and around every campfire, on every march and every battlefield, the soldiers sang "Old John Brown," and the soul went marching on like a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of

fire by night, leading the Union army from Bull Run to Appomattox. Then there was "Rally Round the Flag," "Just Before the Battle, Mother," "Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching," "The Contraband," and many others among which was Colonel Geddes reply to the "Bonnie Blue Flag."

Then there were the enlistments when men came to the parting of the ways between war and peace; when Cerro Gordo's humble heroes, in blue denim overalls, hickory shirts, cowhide boots and home-made oat straw hats, fully as heroic, loyal and patriotic as the homespun farmers roused by the "midnight ride of Paul Revere," bound themselves to serve in the armies of their country for "three years or during the war." These men realized that they were going to put their lives in hazard, but they could not realize the terrible experiences of war. Who could know beforehand of the horrors of the prison pens, the agonies of lying mortally wounded on the battlefield, left alone to die of pain and thirst, with no comrade to take his dying message to the mother, wife, sister or sweetheart back in God's country? The soldiers of Cerro Gordo expected hardships and were inured to them, but they could not know of the sleeping in the snow and sleet and rain with no protection save their frozen or sodden garments; of the long, and many times forced marches, through chilling storms or blistering heat, through mud or choking dust, marched to the very limit of endurance, and then told they must still march on for miles before they could encamp and rest. They believed, that, although they must face the hardship and danger, they would always receive regular pay, receive regular rations and always wear good uniforms. They could not know that there would be months without pay or regular rations and that their uniforms would become a nondescript of rags and tatters. Although they went to Dixie willingly, knowing that they were offering sacrifice for their country, they could not even dream of the extent of the sacrifice. They realized that they must feel homesickness, but they could not realize either its intensity or duration; they could not even dream that in every regiment men would actually die of hopeless longing for home and home scenes and the home people back in "God's country." It gives one an inexpressible shock, even now, nearly fifty years after they were written, to read through a packet of yellow faded letters written to his wife by a Union soldier in the South. The shock comes with the discovery of the utter, hopeless homesickness of the soldier for his farm and log cabin, his wife and children.

One living now cannot understand it, cannot comprehend it; the almost discarded hope, the utter heartsickness, even a despair, unexpressed but pervading like some music motive of one of Wagner's operas.

And what of the women left behind during all the long years of waiting and watching and hoping and fearing, back in God's country; back in the cabin homes on the farm and in the humble abodes in the villages; back on the banks of the Lime and Shell Rock, around Linn and Owen's Grove and along the shores of Clear Lake? Much of the watching and waiting was vain and many of the fondest hopes withered; many an old mother went to her rest years ago, still keeping vigil for the boy who never came; many a wife was made a widow and many a child an orphan; the widow to wear her weeds and the children to remain fatherless until that last great day when the Arch Angel shall come, with one foot upon the sea and one foot upon the land and shall sound the call to judgment on his trumpet and the graves shall open and the sea shall give up its dead—then and not until then shall the mother meet her boy, the wife her husband and the children their father, all breathed upon by the breath of the Eternal Morning and given newness of life; and there shall be no more parting. Amen.

As the year 1777 was the darkest hour of the Revolution, so the year 1862 was the darkest hour of the Civil war. Yet the people of the scattered settlements of Cerro Gordo did not falter nor grow fainthearted. The war meetings went on, the flag of the country was kept afloat, the fife screamed and the war drum throbbed and the stout yeomanry taking up the refrain:

“We are springing to the call for 300,000 more,  
Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom;  
We will fill the vacant ranks of our brothers gone before  
Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom,”

shouldered their guns and marched away to the victory of Vicksburg and the disaster of Pleasant Hill, to the capture of Mobile and past Atlanta on the “March to the Sea;” and the wives and mothers, with the prescience of womanhood, wept, for

“Men must work and women must weep,  
Though the harbor bar be moaning.”

The board of supervisors for the year 1862 was composed of



the following members: Elisha Randall, Mason; Jarvis J. Rogers, Geneseo; Gabriel Pence, Lincoln; David Butts, Falls; Edgar Osborn, Owen; Elon A. Tuttle, Lake. The Roman senate in the proudest, noblest days of the Republic never showed greater fortitude, courage and patriotism, not even when Hannibal was at the very gates of Rome, than did the board of supervisors of Cerro Gordo county in the darkest, most discouraging hour of the Civil war, in 1862. In the timeworn, faded records of the meeting of the board for its August session for that year is found the following resolution:

“Whereas the present condition of our country demands the immediate and decisive co-operation of every individual and every corporation for the purpose of sustaining our government and preventing its final overthrow. And, whereas, the most efficient means of suppressing the rebellion is a vigorous and uncompromising prosecution of the war. And, whereas, humanity and justice demands that those of us who are magnanimously and patriotically offering their services to our common country in these, the darkest and most perilous hours, should be encouraged and sustained in their noble enterprise. Therefore, be it enacted by the board of supervisors of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, that the sum of \$100 be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of the county funds, to each volunteer, who has or who may enlist into the United States service, under the late call of the president for 600,000 men—which said volunteers must be bona fide residents of Cerro Gordo county. And that the sum of \$4 be paid to the wife of each volunteer every month and also \$1 per month for each child of such volunteer each month, who is under the age of fifteen years.”

Lest we unjustly despise the day of small things, let it be borne in mind that while there are about 4,000 voters in the county today, 1910, there were in 1862, but 180, and that comparing our wealth in 1910 with the wealth, or rather poverty, of the county forty-eight years ago, we would be a hundred fold abler to pay a bounty of \$1,000 to that many volunteers and \$40 per month to each “war widow” than were the people of that day to pay the \$100 to the one and the \$4 per month to the other. Living in the comparative affluence of 1910, we can form no adequate idea of the sacrifices made by the people of the '60s.

As the war went on the drain on the able bodied men of the county became tremendous, so great, indeed, that when, in 1864,

the president issued a call for 300,000 more men, the question of securing enough recruits to fill the county's quota became a serious one. To meet the situation the board passed the following resolution: "Resolved, that a bounty of \$500 be paid to a sufficient number of volunteers to fill the quota of this county under the present call for 300,000 men, and that the said volunteers, when mustered into service, shall receive the sum in warrants upon a special fund to be created for that purpose, said warrants to be paid in one and two years, with interest at eight per cent." In 1864 there were but 239 voters in the county. Counting out those unfit for service and those who were unwilling to serve on account of political affiliations there was a small reserve to draw on for able-bodied recruits.

Regarding the going of the first volunteers from the county a former historian has said: "On the 20th of July, 1861, the first little band of Cerro Gordo county patriots, six in number, all Mason City boys, under Captain Datus E. Coon, were drawn up in line on the Main street of Mason City, to exchange the tearful goodbyes and receive the parting 'God bless you, boys,' from friends and relatives. The names of the first volunteers, a roll of honor indeed, are: Daniel Williams, Will Ed. Tucker, John Van Potter, John W. Hobbs, David Hobbs, and L. H. Ferguson. That company was soon followed by others and they in turn by still larger quotas, which soon so nearly stripped the county of its bone and sinew as to effectually arrest its growth and development. During the two first years of the war, until January 1, 1863, the quota of the county called for sixty-nine men, and eighty-six were furnished, an excess of seventeen. During the war there were many additional enlistments, until the county had furnished about 125 men."

Appended is a list of the gallant heroes from Cerro Gordo county, who participated in the war. When possible the list of the various regiments have been submitted to some one familiar with the names.

#### *Second Cavalry.*

Field and Staff Officers:—Colonel, Datus E. Coon.

Company I:—Captains, Datus E. Coon, Steven A. Bishop, J. M. Goodrich. Sergeant, Lewis H. Ferguson. Corporals, Daniel Williams, John Van Patter. Privates, David Hobbs, John W. Hobbs, William E. Tucker.

*Second Veteran Cavalry.*

(Additional Enlistments)

Company I:—Privates, John G. Dickirson, Thos. G. Emsley, Horace P. Kirk, Harrison Montis, Wm. R. Petty.

Company B:—Private, John Blake.

Company D:—Joseph C. Hewitt, Cassius M. Myers, Wm. Pizer, Justus Tompkins. Unassigned, Stephen Ward.

*Fourth Cavalry.*

Company H:—Private, Henry S. Florence.

Company M:—(Additional enlistments) Charles A. Platts, Washington Russell, Joseph M. W. Russell.

*Fifth Veteran Cavalry.*

Sergeant, Martin Stephens. Privates, John S. K. Fellows, Edwin R. Spink, Lorey A. Franklin, Peter R. Harding.

*Fifteenth Veteran Cavalry.*

(Additional Enlistments)

Company B:—Sylvanus Johnson.

*Seventh Infantry.*

Company B:—Captain, Henry I. Smith. Sergeants, Gilbert J. Tisdale, Daniel McTaggart. Privates, John Brown, O. C. Ford, James Wilson, Joseph R. Myers, Edmund B. Brown, H. A. Gregory, Joel C. Wilson, Peter C. Smith.

Additional enlistments, James Campbell, A. G. Porter, Chas. B. Senior, Uriah A. Wilson.

*Twelfth Infantry.*

Company D:—Private, Plymouth B. Zuver.

*Sixteenth Infantry.*

Company H:—Private, Wm. Myers.

*Thirty-second Infantry.*

Adjutant, Charles H. Huntley.

Company B:—Captain, Amos B. Miller. First Lieutenants, Wm. C. Stanbery, Henry Kurl, Thomas O. Howard. Second Lieutenant, Chauncy S. Lane. Sergeants, Harvey D. Barr, Peter Wood, Milton P. Goodell. Corporals, Albert L. Towne, Alonzo Frink, Bruce A. Bryant, Edwin Nichols, Peter Crum, James Jenkinson, James Turner. Musicians, Joseph Morris, Francis M. Rogers.

## Privates

Adams, Geo. M.,	Huntley, Chas. H.
Butts, David H.	Hoyt, Wilbur F.
Belanski, Chas. R..	Ingalls, Amos
Boornhower, L. B.	Jenkinson, James
Brown, Geo. O.	Kerns, Wm. A.
Brown, Jacob G.,	Morris, Cyrus
Brentner, Leander L.	Morris, Joseph
Crum, Benjamin F.	Marsh, Henry A.
Clark, James	Pierce, Abell
Church, Wm. B.	Pratt, Henry O.
Connell, John	Rhodes, Wm.
Duck, William	Randall, John
Elwood, Samuel	Strong, Charles
Felt, James H.	Tenney, H. M.
Ford, John P.	Turenure, F. J.
Fry, James L.	Tobin, Cornelius W.
Fuller, Geo. A.	West, John
Florence, Fontleroy	Warner, Leonard R.
Greely, Otis	Wiltfong, Hiram A.
Henry, John	Woodland, Joseph
Hughes, Edward	Winters, Oliver J.

Additional enlistments—Company B—Privates, Marion Jones, C. F. Rosecrans, Bige Long, Geo. W. Swanger. Unassigned, James W. Florence, Warren Kittel.

*Thirty-seventh Infantry.*

Company G:—Private, George Gilmore.

*Forty-first Infantry.*

Company C:—Sergeant, George W. Henderson. Corporal,



Elber Gregory. Privates, Marquis Brown, Charles McNany, Geo. Henderson, Jacob Russell, J. W. Brown, Edwin Morris, McCullum Russell, Seth B. Stevens, Ira Williams.

*Forty-seventh Infantry.*

(Hundred Day Men)

Company E:—Sergeant, Oliver H. Stilson.

*Dead on the Field of Honor.*

Of the one hundred and twenty-five who enlisted from the Cerro Gordo settlements, but one hundred and one came back to the settlements. Twenty-four were left dead on the field of honor.

Of all the thousands who inhabit the Cerro Gordo of today, who knows or even cares to know the tragic and pathetic story of the snuffing out of each of these individual lives? In any serious, adequate sense, very few. A part of the price they paid for our country's ransom, was to die in their young manhood and be forgotten. It required a love of country passing the love of women to do this. To give one's life for the sake of duty or those we love, is manly; but to sacrifice one's life to have the manner and extent of the sacrifice forgotten, is heroic. We love and appreciate the country those heroes saved, but we forget its saviours; we love and cherish the song, but we long since forgot the singers. "We never did know, and never will know, and never will understand."

Adjutant Charles H. Huntley was killed in the battle of Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864.

Captain Amos B. Miller was mortally wounded at the battle of Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864, and died of his wounds four days later.

Lieutenant Thomas O. Howard was mortally wounded at Pleasant Hill and died in a field hospital there, April 11, 1864.

Lieutenant Chauncey S. Lane died of pneumonia at New Madrid, Missouri, December 15, 1862.

Joseph C. Hewitt died at Memphis, Tennessee, February 21, 1865.

Peter R. Harding died of disease at Camp Cook, Georgia, September 25, 1864.

Joseph R. Myers was killed in battle at Corinth, Mississippi, October 3, 1862.

Joel C. Wilson was killed in battle at Belmont Missouri, November 7, 1861.

James Campbell died at Pulaski, Tennessee, August 14, 1864.

Milton P. Goodell was killed in battle at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864.

Leonard R. Warner died while at home on furlough in Mason City of disease, October 4, 1864.

James Turner died of disease at Demopolis, Alabama, in August of 1865.

David H. Butts died of disease of the heart at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, April 12, 1863.

Jacob C. Brown was killed in battle at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana April 9, 1864.

John P. Ford was killed in battle at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864.

James L. Fry died of general debility, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, January 17, 1863.

George A. Fuller died June 27, 1864, at Mound City, Illinois, of chronic diarrhea.

Wilber F. Hoyt was killed at the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864.

Amos Ingalls died of wounds received in battle at Pleasant Hill, April 20, 1864.

Hiram Wiltfong died of typhoid fever at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, March 18, 1863.

Charles F. Rosecrans died of chronic diarrhea at Memphis, Tennessee, August 1, 1864.

George W. Swanger died of chronic diarrhea at Mound City, Illinois, June 22, 1864.

Peter Smith died of wounds received in battle on board a steamer on the Tennessee river, May 21, 1862.

Peter R. Wood died of his wounds at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 20, 1864.

The foregoing is a complete roster of those of the Cerro Gordo patriots who died or were killed in battle while in the service.

## CHAPTER X.

### AGRICULTURE.

THE FIRST COUNTY FAIR—CONTRAST WITH PRESENT DAY  
“AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITIONS”—FIRST ATTEMPT AT A LEGALLY  
ORGANIZED SOCIETY—FIRST INCORPORATION AND OFFICERS—FIRST  
FAIR GROUNDS—PRESENT FAIR ASSOCIATION—CERRO GORDO AGRI-  
CULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS—AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

As long ago as 1860, the pioneers held an informal meeting at which an Agricultural Society was partially organized. Ever since the first quick response of the rich, virgin soil to the experimenting hand of the first husbandman, there existed in the minds of the early pioneers a constantly growing desire for a county fair at which might be exhibited the products of the land; the fruits and flowers, the milk and honey of the new-found Canaan. In the year 1860, the year of the election of Lincoln, the great emancipator, the long cherished dream of those early years was realized and a county fair was held. Compared with the more pretentious county exhibits of modern times, the fair of 1860 was, beyond doubt, a lean and scraggy affair, but it was all the world to the men and women, the youths and maidens and the boys and girls who thronged around and admired the scanty exhibits and talked and chattered and laughed and saw visions and dreamed dreams at that first “fair” in Cerro Gordo county, fifty years since. There is a princely exposition held each year within the city limits of Mason City, but the surfeited, blase multitude that gazes with careless shifting eyes on the magnificent spectacular display find but little of the real enjoyment found by our fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers at the first county fair when they were young, fifty long years ago.

After that first fair there were other fairs as the dreamy, golden autumns came and went and, while some were failures,

others were roaring successes, but there was never one like the first one. These succeeding fairs were held at different places and under the auspices of different organizations, but there was no real legal basis or authority for any of them.

Finally, in 1872, George Henderson, who had been president of the old society, issued a call for a meeting to be held in the courthouse in Mason City, March 30, 1872, for the purpose of reorganizing the society and placing it on a legal footing. The meeting was held and a committee was appointed consisting of Captain George R. Miller, Alonzo Wilson and B. F. Gibbs, which was to settle the affairs of the old concern and perfect the organization of a new joint stock company which was to take the place of the defunct society. The shares in the new society were to be \$10 each.

The committee being ready to report, a meeting was held on April 13, 1872, at which the articles of incorporation were presented and adopted and the new society stepped into history. The first officers of the new society were: President, Captain Geo. R. Miller; vice president, Charles W. Tenney; secretary, Thos. G. Emsley; treasurer, Henry Martin. George R. Miller and Thos. G. Emsley were from Mason City, Chas. W. Tenney was from Falls township and Henry Martin from Lime Creek township.

The articles of incorporation provided that the board of directors should be made up of one member from each township. The board of directors selected at the organization of the society was composed as follows: Mason, T. N. Miller; Lake, T. Palmeter; Falls, Thomas Perrett; Lime Creek, C. E. Crane; Clear Lake, E. Nichols; Lincoln, H. J. Willis; Owen, J. G. Bailey; Geneseo, Geo. B. Rockwell; Portland, A. S. Felt; Grant, Joseph Cook; Dougherty, Daniel Dougherty.

Fair grounds were purchased to the northwest of Mason City and a series of annual fairs inaugurated which lasted for more than thirty years. As long as the shares were pretty generally distributed among the people and no special favors were shown the association prospered, but, in the course of time, the shares became concentrated in a comparatively few hands and for reasons not now well understood, interest in the fairs waned and annual receipts fell away. Finally there came a day when it was found that the association could no longer bear up against the tide of adverse circumstances and the fair grounds were sold and the affairs of the association were wound up.

There was considerable hue and cry raised among the people



when they learned that the fair grounds were to be bartered away to the money changers; that the old ark of the covenant was about to pass irrevocably into the hands of the Philistines. But the hue and cry of the people, sharp and poignant at first, gradually subsided and finally died away amid the murmurings of the corn-fields as the autumn winds swept across them.

But a county like Cerro Gordo and a city like Mason City could not get along without a fair. There existed a general sentiment among the people, especially the farmers, favorable to a county fair. All that stood in the way of a realization of the people's desire was some definite, intelligent move that would furnish a nucleus around which this general sentiment could crystallize. Perhaps more to W. L. Patton of Mason City than to any other man is due the credit for the needed initial movement. Shortly after New Year's day, 1907, he presented the matter of organization of the "Cerro Gordo County Fair Association." The Commercial Club considered the proposition favorably and the project was forthwith launched. Mr. Patton and others, at their time and expense, traveled over the county presenting the project and the proposed plan. The people of the county received the project and the plan favorably and in the end the proposed "Cerro Gordo County Fair Association" was duly incorporated.

#### CERRO GORDO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION.

The first article of incorporation provides that the name of the new fair association shall be the "Cerro Gordo County Fair Association;" that by that name it shall have power to adopt a corporate seal, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, contract and be contracted with, make and adopt by-laws, rules and regulations and do any and all other things which by law like corporations have power to do, and shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of like corporations.

Article II makes the principal place of business Mason City.

Article III sets forth the objects of the association, which shall be to secure, by lease or purchase, and improve the necessary grounds, construct and maintain necessary buildings, and conduct at Mason City, Iowa, annual fairs, to develop the stock-breeding interests of northern Iowa and to advance the general agricultural, horticultural, mechanical and educational interests within the said district.

Article IV fixes the capital stock of the corporation at \$10,000 and divides it into shares of \$20 each; 40 per cent of which capital stock is to be paid up upon date of issue. When fully paid up the stock is non-assessable.

Article V limits the amount of the corporation's indebtedness to one-half of its paid-up capital.

Article VI exempts the private property of the stockholders from liability for corporation debts.

Article VII fixes the life of the corporation at twenty years.

Article VIII places the affairs of the corporation under the direction and control of thirty-six directors, who shall be stockholders and residents of Cerro Gordo county.

Article IX places the active management of the affairs of the association in charge of an executive committee, consisting of seven members, selected by the board of directors from the membership of said board at the first meeting thereof. The president of the board of directors shall be chosen from the membership outside of Mason City. Of the six remaining members of the board, three shall be non residents of Mason City and three shall be residents of Mason City.

Article X provides for the calling of special meetings of the stockholders.

Article XI provides for the election of a president and vice president and treasurer and the appointment of a secretary, agents, etc.

Article XII defines the duties of the president and treasurer.

Article XIII has reference to the meetings of the stockholders.

Article XIV enumerates the powers of the board of directors.

Article XV provides for the amendment of the articles of incorporation.

In the first or provisional organization, the officers and directors were as follows: President, D. M. McArthur of Lime Creek; vice president, W. L. Patton, of Mason City; treasurer, L. G. Stevens, of Mason township; secretary, Wiley Rankin, of Mason City. The directors were, Charles Grimm, of Lake; Henry Garlock, of Grant, C. R. Hamstreet, of Union.

It was under the management of this organization that the first fair was held on the old fair grounds in 1907. The society had not yet got into good running order, there were untoward

accidents and unfavorable weather, yet this first fair was a decided success, simply because the people had their hearts in the new project and they made it a success.

After the fair of 1907, there was a new and regular organization of the society. Under this organization of 1908, fair grounds were purchased in the south part of the city, a race track was made, the grounds were fenced, halls, stables, grand stand and bleachers were erected and a great, up-to-date fair prepared for. The results greatly exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The new Fair Association was on its own grounds and beyond all peradventure, a decided success.

The official directory of the association for 1908 was as follows:

President, D. McArthur, of Lime Creek; vice president, W. L. Patton, of Mason City; treasurer, L. G. Stevens, of Mason township; secretary, C. E. Somers, of Mason City.

Directors:

J. L. Stevens, Falls.  
 G. H. Purdy, Lime Creek.  
 Ed Harding, Lincoln.  
 J. H. Miller, Grant.  
 A. Pickford, Portland.  
 C. R. Hamstreet, Union.  
 E. O. Gregory, Mt. Vernon.  
 N. A. Ryburn, Bath.  
 T. E. Wagner, Owen.  
 Peter Gorman, Dougherty.  
 J. L. Lakin, Geneseo.  
 A. L. Hemming, Pleasant Valley.  
 J. N. Nissen, Grimes.  
 Chas. Grimm, Clear Lake.  
 Wm. Knaak, Lake.

These directors were from the outside townships. Those from Mason City were:

W. L. Patton,	G. M. Woodruff
C. H. Barber,	L. R. Bailey
C. A. Parker	I. W. Keerl
J. G. Igon	Geo. B. Frazier
N. W. Bickel	S. R. Miles
D. W. Vroom	H. S. Stanbery
C. B. Keemer	L. S. Thompson
D. M. Conroy	H. D. Page

The fair of 1909 exceeded that of 1908 in every respect. In fact it so far outgrew the original ideas and hopes of the incorporators that it no longer seemed proper to designate it as the "Cerro Gordo County Fair." It had become in fact the "North Iowa Fair" and it became so in name. That is, it was called that and advertised as "The North Iowa Fair" and not as the "Cerro Gordo County Fair." There has been no amendment to the articles of incorporation changing the name. By common consent the newer and more appropriate title is used and the older one ignored.

In this year of grace, 1910, the Cerro Gordo County Fair is spoken of and advertised as the North Iowa Fair. Even this name is rapidly being outgrown and already prophets, not without honor in their own country are foretelling the time as not far distant when it will be known as "The Middle West Exposition."

The following is the present official directory (1910):

President, Geo. H. Purdy; Vice President, L. S. Thompson; Secretary, Chas. H. Barber.

Township Directors:

A. L. Stevens, Falls.  
Arthur Pickford, Portland.  
T. E. Wagner, Owen.  
Peter Gorman, Dougherty.  
J. L. Lakin, Geneseo.  
N. W. Ryburn, Bath  
L. G. Stevens, Mason.  
D. McArthur, Lime Creek.  
Ed. Harding, Lincoln.  
Wm. Knaak, Lake.  
A. L. Hemming, Pleasant Valley.  
Jacob Nissen, Grimes.  
H. J. Huber, Union.  
C. R. Hamstreet, Clear Lake.  
H. G. Bruchner, Grant.

Mason City Directors: Ed. F. Cornell, D. M. Conroy, H. S. Stanbery, Chas. H. Barber, L. R. Bailey, C. A. Parker, E. C. Halsey, I. W. Keerl, J. E. Igou, D. W. Vroom, C. E. Somers, S. R. Miles, H. D. Page, L. S. Thompson, W. L. Patton, G. M. Woodruff.

Executive Committee: G. H. Purdy, chairman; D. McArthur, Arthur Pickford, Wm. Knaak, W. L. Patton, S. R. Miles, Chas. H. Barber.



The Fair Grounds are located just inside the city limits within twenty feet of the street car line. The grounds were purchased by the county and their use as fair grounds donated to the Fair Association. The grounds contain the best half-mile race track in the state. The grand stand and bleachers seat over 5,000 people. The floral hall is 60x175 feet. The cattle barn holds over 160 head of cattle. There are 80 box stalls. There is a large horse barn, sheep pens that hold 200 sheep and covered hog pens holding 500 hogs.

The date of the fair for this year, 1910, was August 22nd to August 26th, inclusive. The published premium list covered a wide range of exhibits from home, farm and factory, as well as from the school. The attractions and special features were greater in number and of a higher class than ever before, and the advertising more pretentious and more widely distributed than heretofore. The association is on a sound financial basis and, judging from all present indications and prospects, it is likely to remain so.

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#### AGRICULTURE.

A few words ought to be said concerning the history, etc., of agriculture in the county. The early agriculture was simple and consisted in raising a patch of corn, a small field of wheat, a little oats, a patch of buckwheat and a few rows of some variety of sorghum. The corn and oats were, for the most part, fed to the stock, although some corn was ground for food at the local grist mill. The wheat and buckwheat were ground in the local grist mills for local consumption. For many years sorghum was quite an important product. The cane was crushed in the wooden roller mills and the juice reduced to a rather crude syrup in sheetiron boiling pans. Later the iron roller mill was introduced and an improved process for reduction of the cane juice to syrup.

The statistics covering sorghum production are imperfect and fall short of giving full amounts produced. The earliest statistics regarding this industry go back before the war to 1859. In that year the number of acres reported was 17 and the number of gallons of syrup, 1,048 or a little over 61 gallons per acre. In 1863 there were 64 acres and 4,538 gallons of syrup, or 71 gallons per acre. In 1865, there were 33 acres and 3,984 gallons of syrup, or

a yield of nearly 121 gallons per acre. In 1869, the acreage was 55 acres and the yield of syrup 5,186 gallons or 108 gallons per acre. In 1880, there was an acreage of 60 acres and a yield of 4,287 gallons or a little over 70 gallons per acre. The sorghum industry owed its existence to the poverty of the people and the high price of sugar. As the wealth of the people increased and the price of sugar decreased, the industry waned, until at present it has become negligible as an agricultural product.

With the coming of the railroads around the year 1870, wheat raising at once leaped into importance and became the great commercial product of the farms. Wheat raising proved the greatest blessing and the greatest curse the agricultural interests of the county has ever known. For seven fat years it was a veritable gold mine for the wheat raisers and the people generally. The soil was virgin, the yield was enormous, from 20 to 40 bushels, and the prices generally above the dollar mark. Everybody who raised wheat made easy money and, as a consequence, everybody went to raising wheat. The crop of 1877 was enormous. In some cases the yield was 45 and even 50 bushels per acre and the prices were a dollar and upward. The people went insane and sowed more wheat. And then, like thunder from a calm, clear sky, came the almost total failure of 1878. The yield per acre dropped to 10 bushels and the quality poor and shrivelled. The prices dropped to from 25 to 40 cents per bushel. But people did not lose hope. Again the country was sown to wheat and again came failure. Year after year the process of sowing big wheat fields in the spring and reaping a losing crop in the fall went on. With the first failure the farmers had gone to the money sharks for help and borrowed money at 20 per cent interest and this course was repeated until the money sharks were rich and the farmers were bankrupt. Men who had owned farms became renters and men who had been renters sank to the position of wage laborers. The chattel mortgage swept away the stock, farm implements and even the household goods of the tenants and the chattel mortgage and the real estate mortgage left a majority of the farmers without house or home or with heavily incumbered farms. It required fully a generation to repair the losses and even then they were not wholly repaired, and never will be. For years practically no wheat was sown in the county. At this writing, 1910, some wheat is being sown with fairly good returns. But commercial wheat farming is gone never to return.

With the abdication of King Wheat, corn mounted the vacant throne and has reigned with undisputed sway ever since, although, even corn can never hold so absolute a sway as wheat once did. The farmers have learned the folly of placing their eggs all in one basket. Instead of all wheat or all corn, they have learned the wisdom of diversifying their industry. Corn and oats have become the principal grain crops. Dairying, stock raising, hogs, cattle and horses are important branches of the farming industry. Poultry raising and egg production are also important.

Following is a table showing acreage, production and value of the most important grains and grasses for the year 1905:

Kind	Acres	Yield	Value
Corn,	97,425	2,743,266	\$867,420
Oats	77,787	2,594,031	615,058
Barley	2,648	10,985	25,432
Wheat	797	15,589	6,922
Buckwheat	452	4,785	2,996
Rye	185	2,472	1,530

It will be noted that wheat has fallen to fourth place and that with corn in the lead, oats and corn are the principal crops.

In the year 1905 the total value of hay and other forage crops was \$448,185. The fruit crop, including apples, plums, grapes, cherries and berries, was \$75,500. The value of various seeds, such as flax, clover, timothy and other seeds, was \$10,298. The annual production of potatoes is approximately 200,000 bushels. Of late years there is a new and growing farm industry in the growing of sugar beets. At present these beets are shipped out of the county for manufacture into sugar. The total value of farm products, not including farm animals and animal products may be set down at approximately \$2,500,000.

The total number of cattle of all ages in 1905 was 45,669 with a value of \$820,619. Of these were 13,846 cows giving milk, valued at \$327,226. In the same year the total number of sheep was 4,781, valued at \$18,007. The wool produced was 14,832 pounds with a value of \$2,642. In the line of poultry there were 201,826 fowls, valued at \$77,935, the value of eggs produced \$121,554 and the number of eggs 666,312. Dairy products were valued at \$251,208, and vegetables at \$47,430.

The total number of horses and mules was 13,020 with a value of \$804,968. The total number of swine was 52,541 valued at \$294,698.

These values are fixed for the most part by census enumerators, based in great part on little better than guesswork. The figures are undoubtedly under the mark. Of all possible statistics the most unreliable are those derived from the United States census. According to this census for the year 1905 which being a state census is a shade more reliable than the government census, but still much a matter of guesswork, the total value of all farm products, including farm animals was for the year last named \$4,583,009. It is safe to say that \$5,000,000 would be much nearer the actual value.

The following table shows the number of acres improved and in farms at the end of each five year period for thirty years beginning with 1875 and ending with 1905:

1875	52,890
1880	169,206
1885	168,149
1890	220,214
1895	288,875
1900	314,078
1905	314,678

In 1905 there were 1,888 farms in Cerro Gordo county. Of this number 1,186 were owned by the occupants and 702 were let to tenants. Of the farms rented 390 were rented for cash, 249 for share and 63 for mixed rent.

The 1,181 farms worked and occupied by the owners contained 179,325 acres. There were 31,314 acres rented to land owners, that is adjoining farmers and 134,615 acres were rented to tenants who owned no land.

The total number of farms in the county 1,888; total number of acres 345,254; value of the land \$16,986,710; value of buildings \$2,722,896; value of farm implements \$423,994. Total \$20,133,600. As the price of land has increased fully 25 per cent during the last five years the statistical value of land is now, 1910, at least \$21,233,387. In reality this statistical value falls far short of the actual value, which is not far from \$30,000,000 in round numbers, or between \$80 and \$90 per acre, on an average throughout the county.



The interests of the farmers are greatly aided by the Farmers Institute, which holds annual sessions in various places in the county. Another great help is derived from lectures delivered by members of the faculty at Ames, who give the farmers the benefit of experience gained in the laboratory and on the large experimental farm connected with the college there.

Horticulture is materially advanced through the meetings of the northeastern section of the State Horticultural Society. There are many fine apple orchards in the county and plums, grapes, cherries and many varieties of berries are profitably cultivated. There are nurseries at Mason City and Clear Lake.

There is no county in the state or in the United States where the farmers' co-operative idea has been more thoroughly worked out in practical application than Cerro Gordo. It was at Rockwell in this county, where the first really successful farmers' co-operative society was organized and operated. A full account of the co-operative movement in this county will be found elsewhere in this work.

## CHAPTER XI.

### POPULATION.

POPULATION OF CERRO GORDO COUNTY AS GIVEN BY EACH CENSUS FROM 1851 TO 1910—DECREASE IN RURAL AND INCREASE IN URBAN POPULATION—POPULATION BY TOWNSHIPS FOR 1880 AND FOR 1905—SEX, NUMBER AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF NATIVE BORN POPULATION IN 1905—SEX, NUMBER AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN BORN FOR 1905—CONJUGAL RELATIONS—CERRO GORDO'S FIRST LOVE STORY AND FIRST MARRIAGE—MARRIAGE STATISTICS—THE DIVORCE EVIL—CAUSES OF THE EVIL—REMEDIES.

In 1851 the population of Cerro Gordo county consisted of eight persons, Joseph Hewitt and James Dickirson, their wives and their two children and John Alloway and Henry Robinson, two young hunters, who were temporary sojourners.

Below is given, in tabulated form, the population of the county from the earliest times down to and including an estimate of the population, in 1910.

1851	8
1856	632
1859	855
1860	940
1863	1,007
1865	1,311
1867	1,988
1870	4,722
1875	6,685
1880	11,461
1885	12,688
1890	14,864
1895	18,802
1900	20,672
1905	21,534
1910 estimated	25,000

For the five year period from 1900 to 1905, the increase in population for the county is but 862. During the same period

the rural population actually decreased 1,090. This loss was more than balanced by a gain in urban population of 1,952, which leaves the net gain 862.

For the five-year period from 1905 to 1910, the urban increase in population has been not far from 6,000, while there is good reason to believe that the rural population has about held its own. The urban estimate may possibly be too high and the rural population may possibly have actually slightly decreased but even at that, an estimate of 25,000 population for the county in 1910 would seem to be conservative.

Mason City's gain in population during the five year period from 1900 to 1905 was 1,611, while the total urban gain was 1,952,



MAIN STREET, MASON CITY.

leaving 341 urban gain for the rest of the county. This 341 gain probably approximates the gain made by Clear Lake, as the population of the smaller towns seem to be stationary.

In 1875 the total population of the county was 6,685. Of this number 1,913 were born in Iowa, 3,693 in other states, 1,079 in foreign countries and 17 were colored. Of the white population 3,507 were males and 3,161 were females.

In 1905, thirty years later, the total population of the county was 21,534. Of this population 11,722 were American born of American born parents, 5,976 being males and 5,746 females. Of

native born whites of foreign parentage, there were 3,434 males and 3,447 females; of foreign born whites there were 1,558 males and 1,332 females; of a colored population of 51, 32 were males and 19 females. The total population was divided 11,000 males and 10,534 females.

In 1880 the total population was 11,461. This population was divided among the townships as follows:

Bath	411
Clear Lake Township	441
Clear Lake Town	1,095
Dougherty	454
Falls inc. Plymouth and	1,112
Rock Falls Villages	
Geneseo inc. Rockwell	773
Grant	370
Lake	590
Lime Creek	700
Lincoln	552
Mason Township	567
Mason City First Ward	2,262
Mt. Vernon	266
Owen	451
Pleasant Valley	319
Portland	629
Union	212

In 1905 the total population of the county was 21,534, distributed among the minor divisions as follows:

Bath	534
Clear Lake Township	674
Clear Lake Town	1,336
Dougherty Township	591
Dougherty Village	162
Falls Township	696
Plymouth	361
Rock Falls	98
Geneseo Township	502
Rockwell	685
Grant	702
Grimes Township	482
Meservey	234
Thornton	293



Lake	658
Lime Creek	736
Lincoln	530
Mason Township	584
Mason Township First Ward	2,262
Mason City Second Ward	1,957
Mason City Third Ward	2,127
Mason City, Fourth Ward	2,011
Mt. Vernon	581
Owen	578
Pleasant Valley Township	535
Swaledale	264
Portland	596
Union	461

Of the 18,654 American born population of the country in 1905, the following table gives the number, sex and nativity by states:

States	Male	Female	Total
Calif.	4	4	8
Col.	5	7	12
Conn.	26	12	38
Ill.	980	855	1,835
Ind.	88	104	192
Iowa	5,729	5,724	11,453
Kan.	45	40	85
Ken.	28	19	47
Me.	31	18	49
Md.	23	7	30
Mass.	38	33	71
Mich.	60	45	105
Minn.	225	235	460
Mo.	61	68	129
Neb.	50	50	100
N. H.	15	18	33
N. J.	32	14	46
N. Y.	487	403	890
N. C.	2		2
Ohio	201	205	406
Pa.	198	200	398
S. D.	59	67	122
Tenn.	6	1	7

States	Male	Female	Total
Vt.	51	41	92
Va.	26	23	49
W. Va.	13	6	19
Wis.	909	901	1,810
Other States	55	62	117
<hr/>			
Total	9,442	9,212	18,654

Of the 2,880 foreign born population of the county in 1905, the following table gives the number, sex and place of nativity:

Country	Male	Female	Total
Austria	15	13	28
Bohemia	38	36	74
Canada	136	133	269
Denmark	141	112	253
England	179	134	313
France	4	2	6
Germany	513	318	894
Holland	7	3	10
Ireland	173	164	337
Italy	5	2	7
Norway	182	203	385
Russia	10	7	17
Scotland	30	19	49
Sweden	97	78	175
Switzerland	7	10	17
Wales	11	8	19
Rest of Europe	2	2	4
Asia	1		1
South America	1		1
Unknown	6	14	20
<hr/>			
Total	1,558	1,322	2,880

In 1905 there were in Cerro Gordo county 4,624 men of military age, that is, between the ages of 18 and 44, inclusive. Of these 2,276 were native born of native born parentage; 1,674 were native born of foreign born parentage; 660 were foreign born and 14 were colored.

For the same year, out of a total of 6,361 voters, 3,030 were

native born of native born parentage; 1,860 were native born of foreign parents; 1,451 were foreign born and 20 were colored.

For the same year, 1905, out of a total of 7,089 children of school age, 5 to 21, 3, 571 were males and 3,518 were females. Of those native born of native born parents, 2,204 were males and 2,181 were females—4,385. Of the native born of foreign parents, 1,259 were males and 1,245 were females—2,503. Of the foreign born 100 were males and 86 were females—186. Of the 14 colored children, 8 were males and 6 were females.

#### CONJUGAL RELATIONS.

The historian of Cerro Gordo has written the story of its early settlement, of its Indian troubles, of the hardships of its early pioneers, of its triumphs and defeats in peace and war, but who shall write its Love Story? That it has a love story, we may well believe, for where there is courtship and marriage there is, let us hope, romance as sweet as summer, and from the first dim gray dawn of its history there has been courtship and marriage, here in Cerro Gordo county. That the sweet romance of courtship days did not always last forever and aye, we know, for all along down through the pathway of the years, there has crept a muddress of love and duty called divorcee.

The first lover we know anything about from the records, was George Frederick, a son of the German Fatherland, and the first sweetheart, Urvilda Campbell, a daughter of America. George arrived on the banks of the beautiful Shell Rock amid the brilliantly dyed flowers of mid-summer, in July. He had missed the bluebirds and the robins' nesting time and the beauties to the sight and smell of the plum tree, the cherry tree, the crabapple and the hawthorn that filled the land with bloom and sweet scents when the grass grew green and the earth was carpeted with the flowers of the springtime. The wild roses of June had budded and bloomed and shed their petals and the many hued phlox that lent all the colors of the rainbow to the wide prairies had come and gone before he came, but all through the later summer and the sobering, fruitful autumn, when the earth was robed in the scarlet and gold and purple of the lilies and goldenrod and wild asters, he pressed his wooing with all the ardor, not only of a lover, but of a lover who is doing his own cooking in a lonely log cabin. The historian must leave to the writer of romance, the details of the

wooing of the fair Urvilda. It is a matter of record that on the 20th day of November, 1855, George Frederick, five years from Germany, was married to Miss Urvilda Campbell on section 16 of Falls township, the Rev. Thomas Tenney officiating.

We catch a glimpse of George's character and a glint of gold at the same time, for instead of paying the legal fee of two dollars, or the conventional fee of five dollars, George generously handed the surprised clergyman a ten dollar gold piece at the conclusion of the ceremony. That George and Urvilda lived happily and did not believe in race suicide we may assume from the fact that a family of eight children were born to them: Annie, Ella, Leslie, Mary, George, Charlie, Belle and Orlin.

And then, following George and Urvilda comes a long procession of lovers marching two by two, as the youths and maidens used to march at the play parties when we were young singing the old song—

We are marching forward to Quebec  
Where the drums are loudly beating;  
The Americans have gained the day  
And the British are retreating.

The wars are all o'er and we'll return back  
To the place where we first started,  
We'll open the ring and choose a couple in  
To relieve the broken-hearted.

Singing the old song that has changed its words and music to the outward ear ten thousand times during the myriad ages, but which in the hearts of the singers is still the same as when it was first sung in Eden, we see the lovers of old Cerro Gordo pass by, two by two, marching to the marriage altar. For the year 1856 we give the names of these marching lovers, the date of their marriage vows and the name of the person who performed the ceremony, and for the next two years, 1857 and 1858 only the names of those who were married.

Henry Allen and Margaret Long, January 3, 1856, by Judge John B. Long.

Allen Gounkee and Elizabeth Jane Haskins, January 31, 1856, by Judge John B. Long.

William Kearns and Hannah M. Gibbs, February 27, 1856, by Robert Clark, justice of the peace.

Patrick Hayes and Eliza M. Gardner, March 23, 1856, by Judge John B. Long.



William Reynolds and Sarah Trusdal, June 8, 1856, by Judge John B. Long.

Ebenezer Cockerton and Esther Wiltfong, May 7, 1856, by C. L. Bunce, justice of the peace.

Enoch Wiltfong and Julian Hunt, by Rev. Thomas Tenney, August 31, 1856.

Simeon Van Patter and Lucina Thompson, September 16, 1856 by Elisha Randall, justice of the peace.

Robert Clark and Rebecca Brentner, by Solomon Zuver, justice of the peace, November 16, 1856.

Thomas Andrews and Rachel A. Long, November 16, 1856, by Solomon Zuver, justice of the peace.

George W. Henderson and Martha Ann Randall, December 18, 1856, by Judge J. S. Church..

This ends the list of marriages for 1856. The following is a list of those married during the years 1857 and 1858 without other more specific data.

Jarvis S. Church and Sabra L. Van Patter.

George W. Swanger and Mahala Crum.

John Garrard Kortes and Wilhelmina Schmidt.

Nelson E. Fletcher and Emma Morris.

Mitchell Jackson and Sylvia Jane Reece.

William Reddington and Augusta A. Brown.

William A. J. Sutton and Temperance Decker.

John Blowers and Sarah Belt.

Ira L. Williams and Ann C. Wariser.

John Claus and Miss C. A. Campbell .

Nathan M. Jeffords and Mary A. Williams.

George P. Griffith and Susan G. Tompkins.

Silan Noyes and Miss F. M. Tompkins.

Nathan Ames and Louisa Alloway.

Elias Pattee and Mary Bennett.

E. Rounds and Jane Walton.

John Whitenill and Mary P. Tucker.

C. C. Doolittle and Melisa Coon.

Thos. H. Judson and Emma M. Mead.

We have given the names of thirty pairs of the lovers and their sweethearts who, two by two, marched to the altar during the years 1855, 1856, 1857 and 1858, and with this procession of the long ago marching across the stage, singing the old, old song of love and duty, we ring down the curtain.

Below we give the number of marriages solemnized in Cerro Gordo county each year from 1855 to 1882 inclusive:

1855	1	1869	26
1856	11	1870	42
1857	9	1871	58
1858	9	1872	57
1859	9	1873	60
1860	11	1874	54
1861	11	1875	95
1862	12	1876	81
1863	8	1877	80
1864	9	1878	107
1865	14	1879	102
1866	22	1880	87
1867	38	1881	106
1868	23	1882	120
Total			1257

#### THE DIVORCE EVIL.

At every term of court held in Cerro Gordo county, divorces are asked for and, in a majority of cases, granted. It is entirely within bounds to say that every nine petitions for divorce should be denied for each one granted. At the time these words are written, in the year of grace 1910, but two of the regular terms of court have been held, yet sixteen divorces have already been granted and twenty-one are on file awaiting adjudication. The clerk of the district court, for Cerro Gordo county, estimates that there will be from thirty-five to forty divorces granted in Cerro Gordo county this year, as that has been the average number for the last few years. The number of marriage licenses averages something over two hundred per annum for the county and the divorces granted average between thirty-five and forty. In other words, for each four or five marriages solemnized, there is a divorce.

No wonder people are becoming alarmed at the outlook. No wonder there is an outcry for more stringent legislation against the divorce evil. It may as well be understood now as later on, that legislation, the mere enactment of new statutes, will do little if any good. Yet some legislation is needed. In the first place the number of grounds on which a divorce may be obtained should be reduced. We have not yet reached an irreducible minimum in this regard. There are at present six different grounds for divorce

under the laws of Iowa and divorces are granted on ex parte hearings, that is by defaults.

The grounds should be reduced to three and there should be no decrees granted on defaults.

The only grounds for divorce should be, first, willful desertion. Desertion should be for five years, dating from the last information as to the whereabouts of the deserter by the deserted. Failure to make application for divorce within thirty days after the expiration of five years should be considered a condonation and divorce on that ground should be barred.

The second ground for divorce should be conviction for a felony, provided application for divorce is made during the incarceration of the felon.

The third ground for divorce should be the pregnancy of the wife by another at the time of marriage, without the knowledge of such fact by the husband, or the parentage of illegitimate offspring by the husband, born after his marriage, provided the wife had no knowledge of such parentage at the time of her marriage. In case of this third ground, the wife or husband should be allowed a thirty day option from the date of first knowledge in which to apply for divorce. Failure to do so should constitute a bar.

In all actions for divorce in which there is no contest, the state should defend and contest each and every allegation in the petition. The presumption of law should be that the allegations in the petition are untrue and their truth should be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

The foregoing are stringent regulations and might work hardship in isolated cases. It is time for stringent regulations. Obtaining a divorce is at present altogether too easy a matter. All laws, even the most wholesome and necessary, work occasional hardship. It is better that an occasional innocent person should suffer than that society should become degenerate.

As a matter of fact the cause for the divorce evil does not lie in the law or its enforcement, but, when traced to the last analysis, in the levity of the American people; in a lack of a serious consideration of the issues of life. Reform the hearts of the people and the divorce evil will disappear; increase their levity and no possible legislation will prove remedial.

## CHAPTER XII.

### CERRO GORDO COUNTY SCHOOLS.

EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS OF LONG AGO—  
ALL CHANGES IN METHODS NOT IMPROVEMENTS—THE OLD LOG  
SCHOOL HOUSE—EARLY INTEREST IN THE CAUSE OF EDUCATION—  
FIRST SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS—THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND THE  
SECTARIAN SCHOOL—EACH HAS DRAWBACKS AS WELL AS ADVAN-  
TAGES—JUDGMENT BETWEEN TWO SYSTEMS DEPENDS ON VIEW-  
POINT—DIFFERENCE IN PRIMARY PURPOSE AND ULTIMATE EFFECT.

Emigration follows the degrees of latitude rather than those of longitude. Practically all of the first settlers in Cerro Gordo county came from the states north of the Mason and Dixon line, and a great majority came either directly or primarily from New York or New England. In those states education is highly valued and the educational system was even in that time advanced far along the road which has led to modern efficiency. In fact there is a serious question with many whether the modern school is, on the whole, more efficient, or even as efficient, as the schools of New England a half century ago. There have indeed been changes and by some all of these changes have been assumed to be improvements over supplanted methods. There are others, who while admitting that change has in some instances been improvement, on the other hand, assert that in a majority of cases changes have either been foolish experiments which were soon abandoned, or mere fads which have actually proved detrimental to the cause of education. Be all this as it may, it can scarcely be successfully contended that the pupil of today, considering the greater amount of schooling he receives, and the greater per capita cost, derives greater benefit from the schools than did his forbears fifty, or even one hundred years ago in New England and its schools of those days.

One of the very first things thought of by the early settlers of Cerro Gordo was education for their children and the establishment of schools for the attainment of that very commendable end. There



is an interest that is almost pathetic in glancing back through the gathering mists of the mustering years at the first attempts made by the "rude forefathers" of hamlet and settlement to provide means for the education of the generation that was growing up. The log houses of the first settlers were necessarily small, generally of but one room and scarcely ever of more than two, besides the loft. Yet in many instances the settler and his family put up with the inconvenience of having a school taught in his own home. In these cases the teacher was very frequently the settler's wife. In these log houses of one room in which a school was kept, the breakfast had to be eaten and the morning's work cleared away before school time, the dinner cooked and eaten during the noon hour and the supper eaten after school hours. When a rainy day came the settler himself was obliged to spend the day in the stable, in the village or at the neighbor's, as his presence in the school room would not only prove irksome to himself, but disturbing to the pupils.

But the log cabins of the settlers were not the most primitive of the temples of learning made use of by the sturdy pioneers of the first days. It is said that when the third person in the Trinity, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world," came to make Himself manifest in the flesh, He chose the humblest of all abodes for the place of His advent; and that was a stable. Yet the Babe of Bethlehem in the humility of His place of birth did not exceed that of the first schools in Cerro Gordo, for the first of our schools were not only taught in stables, but in stables beside which the stable of the inn in Bethlehem was a great castle fit for the mighty sons of Anak or a palace fit for the Amorite kings. In this connection it is of interest to take a retrospective glance at Cerro Gordo's first schools.

The first school taught in Bath township was in the summer of 1857. Its teacher was Miss Emma Adams and its sessions were held in the cabin home of Mr. Cantonwine.

The next school in Bath township was in 1865. This was also a summer school and its sessions were held in a *straw shed*. Its teacher was Miss Louisa Vandermark.

The first school in Clear Lake and the first schools in the county, for the school at Rock Falls was taught the winter following, was taught in the summer of 1855, by Miss Elizabeth Gardner, in the log cabin home of that valiant Captain Miles Standish of the Clear Lake colony, Joseph Hewitt. As compensation Miss Gardner

received one dollar per scholar and boarded around. She had an average attendance of seventeen scholars.

The first school at Plymouth was taught by Miss Harriet Tenney, daughter of Rev. Thomas Tenney, in the winter of 1856-7, in a log cabin belonging to her father.

The first school at Rock Falls was taught by Miss Julian Hunt in the winter of 1855-6 in a school house made of slabs.

The first school in Geneseo township was taught by Miss Mary Rogers in 1859, in a log house on section 3.

The first school in Grant township was taught by Miss Ellen Tuttle, of Clear Lake, in 1862, in a log house. Miss Tuttle had four pupils, received \$2.50 per week wages and paid one dollar per week for board.

The first school in Lake township was taught in the log cabin home of Mrs. Lutz, by that lady herself.

The first school in Lincoln township was taught in the log cabin home of Mr. Williams, by Nancy Williams, in 1857.

The first school in Lime Creek township was taught in a rude log cabin covered with shakes, in the summer of 1855. The teacher was Miss Eliza A. Gardner.

The first school in Mt. Vernon township was taught in the dwelling house of R. T. Lane in 1869 by Mrs. Lane.

The first school house built in Owen township was erected in 1857. It was of stone, two stories high and cost \$2,200, a large sum for those days. This building was far in advance of the then present needs and was the result of the shrewdness of Alonzo Wilson, who built it with tax money raised on land held by speculators.

The first school in Portland township was taught by Truman Judson in 1856-7, in a log school house.

The first school in Union township was taught by Miss Henrietta Sirrine, in a log house.

The first school in Mason City was held in a log cabin in 1856, its teacher being Mrs. Lizzie Thompson.

Such were the first school houses of the "Auld Lang Syne" in Cerro Gordo. The branches taught were few and were confined to those of practical benefit and every day use of the common man and woman, reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic always, and generally geography and sometimes grammar.

Much has been said in open or covert disparagement of the pioneer teachers and the pioneer schools. It is not claimed that

either teachers or schools of the long ago were ideal, but, with all our boasted progress since then, who will have the hardihood to claim that we have at last discovered the ideal teacher or established the ideal school. The only safe standard by which either teachers or schools can be judged is by results produced. There is no ground for the assumption that, for all practical puposes, the pioneer teachers were any less qualified to teach the branches then taught, than are the modern teachers to teach the branches required to be taught in our modern schools, and there is certainly room for argument on the proposition that the pupils who graduate from our modern schools are one whit better fitted to successfully meet the issues of life than were the boys and girls who graduated from the old log school house.

It was well that the people themselves took a deep interest in the education of the children during the early pioneer days, for there was no public school system established worthy of the name. There was no county superintendent to look after the schools of the county and with the limited number of schools in existence there would have been but little for him to do along that line even if there had been an official for that purpose. The same may be said of examinations. There were so few teachers to be examined that but a very small part of an official's time would have been required in making examinations. The educational system was crude and primitive and educational matters were managed in a crude and primitive manner. So far as the public was concerned the looking after the public school funds seemed the principal object aimed at. The schools themselves and the education of the children seem to have been left almost if not entirely to the parents of each vicinage.

In order that the school moneys might be properly husbanded and taken care of, there existed, under the statutory provisions of the day, an official called the school fund commissioner, and in those days it was looked upon as one of the most important in the county and was much sought after. The school fund commissioner had authority to loan the school fund to private parties, on suitable security, and many of the mortgages recorded in those early times are mortgages made to the school fund commissioner in consideration of the school funds. He had no control over either schools or teachers, pupils or school officers. All this, as has been stated, was looked after by the people of the vicinage; by the parents of the pupils in the earliest days and later by the school trustees or

directors. It was left to them to determine the qualifications of the teachers and to contract for service and wages of teachers, as well as to see to it that their schools were taught and managed in an efficient manner.

The office of school fund commissioner was abolished by law in 1858 and the duties which had hitherto devolved on that official were assumed by the county judge until the abolition of that office also and the creation of the county board of supervisors.

A list of the different school fund commissioners is given elsewhere in this work, and all that need be said at present is to point out the character of the officials, who served in that capacity.

The first was David Wright, one of the Wright brothers who settled north of Mason City, in what is now Lime Creek township, in 1853. He was one of those typical pioneers who were always on the frontier as long as there was a frontier. The type appeared with the first white settlements on the Atlantic coast and were ever the vanguard of the white man's advance toward the west. Half hunter and half farmer, they never staid in a locality after it ceased to be a hunting ground, but moved on. Wright brought his family with him and settled in a favorable location on the wooded banks of the Lime. Here he divided his time between hunting and farming until 1857, when he sold out and moved on into Worth county. He doubtless would have moved on from there when the county became too tame, but in Worth county death overtook him, and in the soil of that county he sleeps with his fathers. He was a man of good natural ability but possessed of little of the learning found in books. He was also a man of strong, pleasing personality and had the gift of making friends. In passing it will be of interest to note that in one of his hunting trips he killed a big buffalo about a mile west of the western limits of the Brice and Ong addition to Mason City. Wright was Cerro Gordo's first school fund commissioner, having been elected at the time of the organization of the county in 1855.

The next school fund commissioner was a lawyer, the first of that profession to practice in the county, by the name of Thomas Drummond. He was a well educated man of fine ability and good character. He held the office one year, having been elected in April of 1856.

The third and last of Cerro Gordo's school fund commissioners was Amos B. Miller. Miller was a man of good education and of more than ordinary ability and character. He served his term



which expired in the spring of 1858. He was shortly afterward elected to the office of register of the state land office. He enlisted in the Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1862 and served as captain of Company B of that regiment. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864, while gallantly leading his company. He died of his wounds two days after the battle.

Elsewhere in this work a complete list of the superintendents of schools in Cerro Gordo county is given and that list will not be repeated here. It is enough to say here that the men who have filled this important office have been men of ability, character and education and this is true of the very first, as of the latest incumbents. In fact some of the very ablest were some of the earliest. For example, John M. Hunt was the first county judge of Floyd county and the first superintendent of schools in Cerro Gordo county. His record comes down to us as "a thoroughly educated man, refined in manners and genial and pleasant in disposition." Then in 1858 came Rev. Thomas Tenney, a graduate of Dartmouth College, principal of an academy in Hampton, Maine, teacher in Gorham Academy in Maine, principal of the Grand River Institute, Ohio, before he began preaching. A friend of education and the father of an educated family. Then John M. Brainard, in 1859; a teacher and journalist, "intelligent, well educated and energetic and had many friends" is the way he is described. These were all superintendents in the '50s.

Statistics tell only of material conditions and not of educational *eclat* or practical efficiency. At that, statistics are only of interest when comparative. In number of pupils, teachers, school rooms, value of school buildings and apparatus and volumes in school libraries Cerro Gordo county has made great progress during the last forty years. This can best be shown by instituting a few comparisons.

In 1870 there were forty-four sub-districts in the county; the number of persons of school age was 1,661; the total enrollment of pupils was 1,418; the average attendance was 777; there were fifty schools in the county of which only one was graded; there were seventy-seven teachers employed; the average compensation was, for males, \$35.52 and for females, \$26.68 per month; the average cost of tuition per pupil was forty-five cents; the total value of the school houses was \$28,495, and the value of school apparatus was \$1,018. There were 425 volumes in the school libraries.

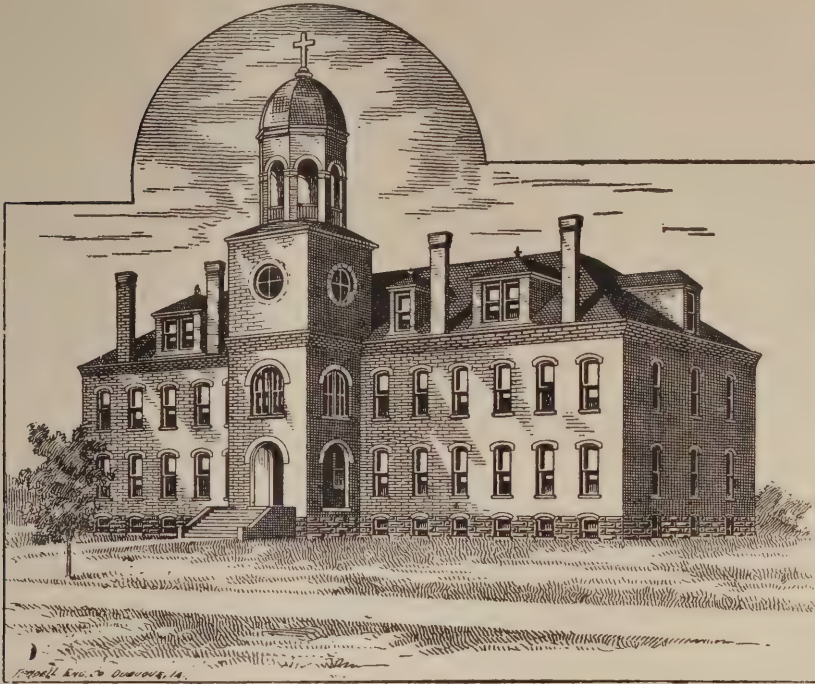
In 1880 there were fourteen district townships in the county, four independent townships and ninety-nine sub-districts. There were 106 ungraded schools and twenty-one rooms in graded schools. There were 221 teachers employed at an average monthly compensation of \$28.90 for males and \$26.01 for female teachers. There were 3,895 persons of school age in the county, with a total enrollment of 2,980 pupils and an average attendance of 1,767. The average cost of tuition per pupil per month was \$2.22. There were 110 school houses in the county of a total value of \$62,185 and school apparatus valued at \$1,851. There were thirty-four volumes in the school libraries.

In 1910 Cerro Gordo is divided into forty-four school corporations, towit: Twelve school townships, eight city or town independent districts, twenty-one rural independent districts and one independent township. School townships are divided into sub-districts and each sub-district has a sub-director. A rural independent district has a board of three members, as has also an independent township. The city or town independent districts are presided over by a board of five members.

In 1910 the total number of persons of school age is 6,539, with a total enrollment of 5,616 and an average attendance of 4,044. Two hundred and thirteen teachers are employed at an average monthly compensation of \$79.87 for male teachers and \$46 for female teachers. The average cost of tuition per pupil is \$2.64. The total value of school buildings is \$557,200, and the value of school apparatus is \$10,315. The total number of volumes in school libraries, outside of the public library in Mason City, is 9,439. The average number of months taught was 8.7. There are seventy-two rooms in the graded schools. Of these rooms Mason City has 44, Clear Lake 10, Rockwell 5, Thornton 4, Plymouth 4, Swaledale 3, and Meservey 2. The average attendance at county institutes is 200.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that, so far as the facilities for educational purposes are concerned, there has been great progress made since 1870. Whether there has been a corresponding increase in the practical education of the people is a question more easily propounded than answered. It is doubtful whether the standard of literacy is any higher now than in 1870 or than it was in the '50s and '60s. It must be admitted, however, that the standard of mere literacy does not tell the whole educational story, as that test extends only to the ability to read and write and there

is something more to school education than the mere ability to read and write. The education of the schools is for the purpose of providing a better equipment for making a living and meeting the requirements of morality and good citizenship, and true educational progress means, if it means anything, an increased efficiency, on the part of the schools, in furnishing a better and better equipment. Mere increase in the number of schools, pupils and teachers, mere



SACRED HEART ACADEMY, ROCKWELL.

increase in the value of school apparatus, mere increase in the number of branches taught or in the number of volumes in the school libraries, mere increase in the cost of tuition per pupil, mere increase in the value of school buildings, mere changes in the methods of teaching or in the manner of educational administration, do not necessarily do this. All these increases and all these changes might occur with no corresponding increase in the efficiency

of the schools in providing a better equipment for making a living or meeting the requirements of good citizenship or morality. Let us hope, in the absence of absolute knowledge, that the progress of school education in Cerro Gordo county has been a true progress.

In addition to the schools of Cerro Gordo's common school system, there are in the county three large sectarian or parochial schools, operated under the auspices of the Roman Catholic church. One of these is located at Mason City, one at Rockwell and one at Dougherty. These schools are intended to answer the double purpose of thoroughly instilling into the minds of the Catholic children the doctrines and traditions of, and an indestructible fealty to the Church of Rome; second, to educate the children in the various branches of secular education. These schools apparently answer both purposes to the entire satisfaction of both promoters and supporters.

A general county history is not the place, and the writer of such a history is not the person for the discussion of the comparative merits of the two systems, represented on the one hand by the free public schools, and on the other by the privately supported, specialized schools of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. Such discussion must be left to the publicist, the sociologist and the sectarian controversialist. As public institutions it is altogether probable that each system has its points of advantage and also its points of disadvantage.



## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

DOCTORS MOST USEFUL OF FIRST IMMIGRANTS—BUT LITTLE REWARD FOR FIRST PHYSICIAN—DR. SILAS CARD PIONEER OF MEDICAL PROFESSION IN CERRO GORDO—OTHER PIONEERS OF MEDICAL FRATERNITY—HARDSHIPS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE IN 50s AND 60s—DR. STANBERY—MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THE 70s—DR. J. B. DAKIN—DR. C. H. SMITH—DR. J. B. CHARLTÓN—CERRO GORDO MEDICAL SOCIETY—WHEN AND BY WHOM FOUNDED—PRESENT MEMBERSHIP—MASON CITY HOSPITALS—CITY PARK HOSPITAL—STOREY HOSPITAL—MEDICAL FRATERNITY—TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

The first to come to Cerro Gordo county was the hunter and trapper; then came the prospector, and close on his heels, in fact almost in the same wagon, came the husbandman, the merchant, the land-agent-attorney, the mechanic, the inn-keeper, the laborer and, most useful of all, the doctor. It is true that there comes to us, floating across the days and years that are gone, from that distant Babel of sixty years since, the nasal twang of the voice and tones of an occasional wandering clergyman or fitting pioneer preacher, as for a day or an hour he admonishes the listening settlers to "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." But to the people whose hearts were already full of the promise of this New World Canaan and whose eyes beheld the richness and beauty of its woodlands and meadow lands, its pasture lands and its grain lands, its rivers whose banks were fairer than those of old Jordan and its lake with a prettier strand and bluer waves than old Galilee, while respectful, were little inclined to close their eyes to the vision of their own earthly paradise, and fix their gaze on the glories of even that city whose gates are pearl and whose streets are paved with gold.

But if the field was a barren one for the shepherd of souls, it was but little better for the healer of bodily infirmities. Cerro Gordo in the '50s and even in the '60s was a land of youth and

health and strength. The air and the water were both pure and uncontaminated with the germ of those diseases which, as an unwelcome heritage from dead generations of men, afflict more thickly and longer settled communities. There were no old people and, as a consequence, none of those ailments which dog old age to its grave. The diet of the pioneers, while nourishing, was always plain, sometimes even to coarseness and there was continuous, healthful exercise of mind and body. In short, youth, and a healthy climate reinforced by quinine, Ayres pills and a bunch of home remedies, left anything but an encouraging field for the benign saint of the saddle bags.

Yet doctors came and to Silas Card belongs the honor of being the first physician to settle in Cerro Gordo county. Dr. Card came to the county in 1854 and settled at Shibolet or Masonic Grove. It is impossible and would transcend the bounds and scope of this history to give even a brief sketch of all the physicians who have practiced medicine in Cerro Gordo county during the almost sixty years of its history. As the first physician, however, an exception will be made in the case of Dr. Silas Card.

Dr. Card was born at Deerfield, Ohio, in 1810, and while still a mere child in years was left an orphan, without means or influential friends or relatives. This orphan boy, however, was not dismayed and manfully set forth to tread the winepress alone. In those days Ohio was for the most part a wilderness, dotted here and there with pioneer settlements. But, although there was little of work for even low wages, opportunities for education few and far between, the schools widely scattered and primitive, this brave, intelligent, ambitious boy not only earned his living and paid his way, but by the time he was twenty years of age, had secured what was then considered a liberal education and which would, even now, pass respectable muster among the better educated physicians.

At the age of twenty, in the year 1830, he commenced the study of medicine in Mahoning county, Ohio. After securing his diploma, he began the practice of his profession and in due time returned to the place of his birth and married a Deerfield girl by the name of Mary Gibb. He continued his practice in Ohio until 1854, at which time he gratified a long persisting desire and traveled due west until he crossed the great "Father of Waters" and found himself in Iowa. He first came to Benton county but after a very brief stay came to Cerro Gordo county, and in Cerro Gordo he

spent the rest of the days of his earthly pilgrimage. He practiced his profession at Mason City until 1869, when he was appointed postmaster, which office he held until his death in 1874. Dr. Card was a man of social and intellectual worth and was respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

The next physician to locate at Mason City was Dr. E. D. Huntley, who came from New York in 1856, or two years after Dr. Card, and also settled in Mason City. So far as the record discloses, Dr. Huntley was not only a first class physician, but a man of much public spirit and popular with all classes.

The next physician to come to the county was Dr. W. M. Skinner, who came to Clear Lake in 1857. He is reputed to have been a good doctor and well educated in his profession. A single year in the healthy climate sent him away.

The year 1858 witnessed the arrival of three disciples of Aesculapius within the borders of the county, Drs. Hartshorne and Doolittle locating at Mason City and Dr. W. C. Stanbery at Clear Lake. Of these, Hartshorne united the practice of law and medicine and remained a goodly number of years; Stanbery also practiced both law and medicine, having a diploma for each profession. He became a prominent citizen and enjoyed many public honors. Doolittle was a doctor pure and simple and practiced medicine until the "grim shadow" he had fought for so many years, touched him with his mortal dart.

In 1861 Dr. Silas Card, finding the life of a physician at Mason City too much one of ease to prove remunerative, made a shift to the more prosperous settlement on and around the shores of Clear Lake, in the hope of bettering his condition. Although he was without competition and got all the practice there was, he finally, in 1864, gave up in despair and left. The people of Clear Lake either couldn't or wouldn't get sick. The truth of this last statement, incredible as it may seem, is proved by the fact that after Dr. Card left, Clear Lake went without a doctor until four years later. In 1868 Dr. W. H. Stanley came, not by invitation from the healthy Clear Lakers, but on his own motion and at his own risk. It is said of Stanley that he "was well trained in the profession and soon worked up a good practice *for those days*." As good as it was he only staid five years and departed for a more unhealthy climate.

In 1866 Dr. William Allen located at the straggling hamlet of Mason City and began the practice of medicine. Dr. Allen apparently won greater distinction as an energetic business man and public-spirited citizen than as a medical practitioner.

Dr. John G. Ogden came to the county the same year as Dr. Allen. He first settled on a farm near Owen's Grove, apparently with the intention of retiring from the practice, as he was already well along in years. He finally moved to Mason City and remained a resident of that place until 1880, when he went to Kansas.

The next year after the coming of Drs. Allen and Ogden, Dr. A. A. Noyes came to Mason City from Waterloo, Iowa, where he had been in practice, and became an active member of the medical profession in Cerro Gordo. Dr. Noyes is highly spoken of by old chroniclers as "a well educated and polished gentleman who thoroughly understood his calling." He remained at Mason City until 1882, all the time enjoying a good practice, when he returned to Baraboo, Wisconsin. Dr. Noyes is now a resident of Mason City, retired from practice, but with a stronger body and brighter mind than is ordinarily possessed by one whose head is covered with the snow of almost ninety winters. At this writing (1910) he is eighty-eight years of age.

The foregoing completes the list of the real pioneer doctors who practiced through the various vicissitudes of frontier life in Cerro Gordo during the trying days of the '50s and the '60s. Like the physicians we all know so well in our day, and, although we complain of them and growl about their lack of the power to perform miracles, yet, down deep in our hearts respect and appreciate, these pioneer physicians were men of sound heads and true hearts. Like the physicians who live and practice the profession in our day, those doctors of old Mason City, in the long ago, were men of culture and education who sacrificed their own personal comfort and health that they might alleviate the suffering, minister to the sick and save the lives of those who, in sore straits, called upon them for their professional services. These old-time physicians of those bygone yesteryears of old Mason City, even as are their professional descendants of our day, with the same good will, though with somewhat less of knowledge and skill, with somewhat more of hardship and less of reward, braved the inclemencies of the weather in all seasons, night or day, the wind and rain, the sleet and snow of winter and summer, spring and autumn, losing their sleep and night's rest, going without their meals, without



certainty of reward, were the Good Samaritans of the communities in which they lived and did loyal service to the wounded, the sick and those in pain.

Among the physicians who came to Cerro Gordo in pioneer times was Dr. William C. Stanbery, who came to Clear Lake in 1858 and remained in practice there for about a year. Dr. Stanbery, however, is better known as a lawyer and publicist than as a physician, as he was admitted to the bar in 1859 and entered the practice of law in partnership with I. W. Card. At the breaking out of the war he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, and was commissioned first lieutenant. Shortly after entering the service he was appointed provost marshal of Tennessee. He was a Democrat in politics and was a delegate to the Baltimore convention that nominated Stephen A. Douglas for president. In 1872 he was candidate for circuit judge and was appointed United States revenue collector for the northern district of Iowa by Andrew Johnson. He was an active member of the Masonic order, passing to the thirty-second degree. He was the founder of Benevolence Lodge No. 145 of Mason City. He also organized lodges at Forest City, Belmond and other points. The life of W. C. Stanbery was one of honors earned and received and the accomplishment of arduous things, and his name and memory are chiseled in solid granite, but his noblest and most enduring monument is the family he reared. He was the father of twelve children, eleven of whom lived to man and womanhood. His five daughters became the wives of good and honorable men. Of his sons, John S. became a prominent attorney and citizen and one of Iowa's lawmakers; Thomas and William were merchants; Recompense, Harry E. and Henry S. became prominent in the field of journalism. To be the father of eleven successful and honorable men and women is far greater than it is to be a successful hoarder of money or partaker of the leeks and onions of political office.

Another of the pioneer physicians of pioneer days, whose name must not be omitted in this roster of old time practitioners, was Dr. Charles Graves of Plymouth, a doctor who succeeded from the very first, despite the good health of the country. He located at Plymouth in 1865 and successfully practiced there until his death, which occurred March 7, 1878, at the age of sixty-three. In summing up his character, an old chronicler has said of him: "His integrity as a man, his genial nature and his conscientious prose-

cution of the duties of his profession, won for him material success and an uncommon degree of respect from his friends."

With the coming of the railroads in 1869-70 and the beginning of a new era, there began an influx of physicians, especially into Mason City. The county began to settle rapidly and the future of Mason City began to be discernible. But the country was still too new and good health was still too much the general rule for the field to be a profitable one for the medical fraternity and but few of the physicians who came to the county during the decade of the '70s remained for a very long period. It seemed to be an illustration of the truth of the saying: "Many are called but few are chosen."

Dr. Van Dusen located at Mason City in 1875 and seemed to be a young physician of promise. He was for a time a partner of Dr. W. W. Allen. He remained only about a year. Dr. Andrews located in Mason City the next year, in 1876, but his stay was even shorter. The next year, 1877, Dr. A. M. Tuttle, son of E. A. Tuttle of Clear Lake, located at Mason City, but he only staid a few months. The next year, 1878, Dr. C. C. Coggsell also located in Mason City, but remained only a short time. The next year, 1879, came a novelty in the person of Dr. A. W. Cummings, who was a homeopathic physician and also a Methodist preacher, but although he combined the ministry to the sick of body and the sick of soul, the people were either too healthy and good or too foolhardy and sin-hardened for him to make his business pay satisfactorily and he soon followed the others. Then in 1880, the very next year, came Dr. Read, a student fresh from school. Six months starved him out. The next year, 1881, Dr. J. S. Clark came and tried it for a year and left.

Clear Lake, while getting a smaller supply of doctors, seems to have offered a rather better field for the profession than Mason City. Dr. Oviatte located in Clear Lake in 1870 and remained in practice there for three or four years. Dr. Baker followed and made a stay of three years. Dr. A. M. Tuttle tried the practice in Clear Lake, but it did not prove satisfactory and he soon left. Dr. Giger tried it one summer and left and returned to Oregon from whence he came.

Down at Rockwell there were still fewer physicians than at either Mason City or Clear Lake, and the field was still better than at either of the former places. Dr. Lefevre practiced there for a number of years. He was followed by Dr. E. C. Miller and T. A.

Smith, both of whom were in successful practice there for a long time. This was especially true of Dr. Miller who successfully practiced medicine in Rockwell for more than a quarter of a century. He was county coroner for many years and a member of the soldiers' examining board for several years. During the later '90s Dr. Miller removed to Brookings, South Dakota, where he has been preeminently successful as a medical practitioner and as an influential citizen, both socially and politically.

Dr. George H. Walker located at Plymouth in 1877 and carried on a successful practice there for a number of years.

Shell Rock Falls has been too narrow a field for the medical fraternity to flourish in. Dr. Barber located there in the early '80s, but has long since left the field. There was no physician practicing there in 1910.

It is a somewhat peculiar circumstance that of all the physicians who were practicing medicine in the '70s and '80s in Mason City, but two or three remain in 1910, and but few who commenced practice in the early '90s. We have mentioned the names of many physicians who located in Mason City during the '70s and '80s who left without achieving marked success. It does not follow from this that all of the medical practitioners who came were failures, for such is far from being the case.

Among the notable exceptions was that of Dr. J. B. Dakin. Dr. Dakin was born in Clinton county, Ohio, January 5, 1836, and was one of a family of five sons and five daughters. Kipling says that the backbone of the English army is the "enlisted man;" it can be said with equal truth that the backbone of this Republic of ours is the boy raised on the farm. J. B. Dakin was reared on a farm in Ohio and came from good old Kentucky stock. When he was a boy he went to that nursery of our country's backbone, the common school, where every farmer boy goes. When he got to be a youth in his teens he attended an academy and received an academic education, which is good enough for anybody who doesn't stop his education the moment he quits school. At the age of nineteen, in 1855, he went to Bremer county and entered the office of Dr. Geo. M. Dakin and went to reading medicine. Four years later, when he was twenty-three, he packed his belongings and went to Cincinnati and, during a part of the years 1860 and 1861, he attended medical lectures at the Eclectic Medical College in that city. By that time the war drums of the great Civil war were throbbing and the manly, the true and the brave were exchanging

the garb of citizenship for the blue of their country's uniforms and rallying to their country's colors. J. B. Dakin was among those who heard the call of his country above the call of self and responded to that higher call. He was one of those with a heart of northern oak; one of those who put on the red badge of courage when the less courageous and the disloyal remained in safety at home or went cringingly to the front as drafted conscripts. Governor Horace Boies once said at a Grand Army campfire at Des Moines, that, as he looked back over his life, he regretted that he had not gone to the defense of his country when he had the priceless opportunity. J. B. Dakin enlisted in the Seventy-second Illinois Volunteers, known as the Board of Trade regiment. It was his fortune to participate in but one great campaign, but that was the wisest and most masterful in its strategy, the most successful in its execution and most glorious and decisive in its results of any campaign of the Civil war, General Grant's Vicksburg campaign.

After the war young Dakin again took up the study of medicine and after further attendance at the medical college at Cincinnati, he graduated and commenced the practice of his chosen profession at La Porte, Indiana. In 1869 he located at Mason City, where he remained until his death at about the beginning of the present century. In 1867 Dr. Dakin was married to Miss J. M. Church, of Marshall, Michigan, a daughter of Elder Jesse Church and a sister of Judge Church, one of the pioneers of Mason City. Mrs. Dakin was a woman of fine talent and good education. Besides filling out an unexpired term, she was twice elected to the office of county superintendent of schools, a distinction never before nor since bestowed on a woman in the county.

Besides being at all times one of the leading practitioners of the medical profession, Dr. Dakin, although never seeking political honors, was many times honored with public preferment by his fellow citizens. He served two terms as mayor of Mason City, was for several terms a member of the city council and served six years as member of the board of county supervisors, besides being a member of the soldiers' examining board. Never mother bore a son with a kinder, truer heart than J. B. Dakin.

Another exception to those who came to Mason City and after a short time found the struggle either too strenuous or utterly hopeless, was Dr. C. H. Smith, who located here in 1878. Dr. Smith was born near the celebrated Chautauqua Lake, New York



state, March 26, 1837. At the age of eighteen, he entered the office of Dr. H. H. Gladden, of Panama, New York, and read for three years, except while absent taking lectures at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Being a poor youth, it was necessary for him to earn money with which to pay expenses, so that it was five years before he received his first diploma. This was in 1860. Dr. Smith might have stopped with his education with this first diploma and then gone shifting from pillar to post until he finally found a corner where serious competition would never come. But he did not stop here. For ten years he tried the practice with a success that would have satisfied some men; but he was not satisfied and in 1870 he returned to Ann Arbor and put in another year of study at the university. In 1871 he received a second diploma. After receiving this second diploma he returned to practice and for nine years was satisfied with the east where success smiled upon his labors. And then, in 1879, he turned his face toward the "far off golden west." He chose Mason City as the scene of his new life and new labor. He at the very outset assumed a place in the very front rank of the medical profession, a place he occupied as long as he remained in practice and after increasing age and infirmity had caused him to lay down the active burdens of his profession, he was the constant counselor and friend of the younger members of the medical fraternity. No physician ever practiced in Mason City who was so often called in counsel as Dr. C. H. Smith. In 1909 death touched his tired heart and he retired to the rest which God has provided for those who have finally grown weary in well doing, that, refreshed and invigorated, they may, when the appointed time shall come, awake to the splendor of the Eternal Morning. Dr. Smith was married in 1862 to Martha J. Allen, of Warren county, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Smith died a few years before her husband.

Among the physicians who came to Mason City in an early day, and one who has been highly spoken of by his contemporaries, was Dr. O. A. Goodhue, who located in Mason City in 1870. Dr. Goodhue is but a memory now and has been only that this twenty years, but there seem to be two facts which have survived regarding him: First, he was a well educated homeopathic physician; second, that he was a successful practitioner in the medical profession. Only the fittest survive in the struggle for existence and Dr. Goodhue flourished while his competitors of that day went down like tenpins. Further comment would be unnecessary.

Among other physicians who were able to survive the struggle for existence of the '80s were Drs. Edward Osborn, F. M. Somers, A. L. Wheeler and T. M. Blythe. Dr. Blythe belonged to one of the leading families of the state. His father, Joseph D. Blythe, was an army chaplain during the Civil war and was called one of the "Fighting Parsons." Two of his brothers, J. W. Blythe and Hon. Jas. E. Blythe, were both eminent lawyers and among the most potent and distinguished political leaders Iowa has produced. Another brother, Dr. S. G. Blythe, was a successful physician. Dr. T. M. Blythe left Mason City several years ago.

Dr. Somers located at Mason City in 1882. He belonged to the homeopathic school and was a thoroughly educated physician, who, in his day in Mason City, obtained and held a good practice. He has been gone many a year and is now remembered by but few.

Dr. A. L. Wheeler located in Mason City in 1879 and was among those who were able to successfully endure the fierce struggle for existence which drove so many of the physicians to the wall during the first forty years of Mason City's history. He had a good practice for many years. He is still a citizen of the city, but no longer practices, having retired on a well earned competency.

Dr. Edward Osborn located in Mason City in 1879 and practiced his profession there continuously until his death. Of all the physicians who have practiced medicine in Mason City, Dr. Osborn was one of the brightest of mind and probably the most versatile in intellect. His very versatility stood as a bar to the success he might have attained in his chosen profession had he been less gifted but possessed a greater singleness of study and effort. This is not saying that he did not succeed in the practice of medicine, for he did succeed. It is only saying that his success would have been much greater had he been able to devote to his profession the full powers of mind with which nature and education endowed him.

A truly pathetic case is that of Dr. S. H. Washburn, who, as a young man, located in Mason City in 1878. Of all the young physicians who have located in Mason City, Dr. Washburn was one of the most promising, but what would otherwise, beyond a doubt, have been a brilliant future was completely blotted out by his early death.

No sketch of the medical fraternity, past or present, would be complete with the name of Dr. J. B. Charlton, of Clear Lake, left out. Dr. Charlton is one "of those immortal dead who live again

in minds made better by their presence;" one of "those simple, great ones, gone, forever and forever by." J. B. Charlton was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1846. When ten years old he came with his parents and settled at Keokuk, where he lived until, as a mere boy of sixteen, he enlisted in 1862, in the Eighteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until he was honorably mustered out at the close of the war. His first service was in the ranks, but the boy had talent, was faithful and arduous, and before long he was made sergeant major of his regiment, but because he was bright and faithful and brave, he was soon on detached duty and employed in the performance of duties where only the sagacious, the trustworthy and the unafraid were trusted. As an illustration: During that campaign of plunder, cowardice and speculation, General Banks' Red River expedition up Red river, young Charlton bore dispatches from General Steele who was at Camden, Arkansas, to General Banks on the Red river. To do this he had to traverse one hundred and twenty miles of unknown country infested with armed enemies and a hostile population. Yet young Charlton delivered his dispatches to Banks and made a safe return. He took his life in his hands, as in case of capture he would have been hanged or shot without trial. He saw service in several battles and at the expiration of his service he was commissioned as a second lieutenant by Governor Stone as a complimentary testimonial to his efficient and loyal service. After leaving the military service he wandered around the world by way of Hong Kong, China. In 1869 he settled down to the serious duties of life and began the study of medicine and graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University in 1872. Immediately upon graduation he came to Clear Lake and commenced the practice of medicine and continued there until his lamented death, which occurred during the first decade of the present century. In September following his graduation he was appointed demonstrator in anatomy in his alma mater, holding the position four years, during which time he continued to hold his practice at Clear Lake. He was at the same time a member of the surgical board of the university hospital. He was also for many years a member of the United States pension examining board. He was a member of the Tom Howard Post, Grand Army of the Republic, as well as other societies, and was mayor of Clear Lake. Both in medicine and surgery J. B. Charlton was a leader.

## THE CERRO GORDO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Cerro Gordo County Medical Society was first organized in 1871, the chief organizer being Dr. A. A. Noyes. The purpose of the organization was for the mutual benefit of the members in particular and, incidentally, for the benefit of the members of the medical profession generally. Since its first organization in 1871, the society has had its ups and downs; at times languishing into a comatose condition of innocuous desuetude and again arousing itself like a strong man awakened from refreshing slumber, and doing valiant service. At the present time and for some years past, the society is and has been in the hands of a set of men who are not likely to again permit it to languish. Below is given the names of its members, place of residence, date of graduation and school from whence graduated.

Name	Date of Grad.	School	Present Residence
Fred Albert	1906	Iowa State University	Mason City
T. T. Blaise	1887	Mo. Medical College	Mason City
T. G. Carlson	1903	Northwestern University	Meservey
F. A. Cogswell	1889	Iowa State University	Rockwell
C. E. Dakin	1899	Bennett Coll., Chicago	Mason City
W. G. Egloff	1887	Northwestern University	Mason City
V. A. Farrell	1901	Northwestern University	Mason City
R. J. Hemphill	1892	Northwestern University	Plymouth
W. E. Long	1899	Physicians and Surgeons	Mason City
J. E. McDonald	1893	Keokuk Medical Coll.	Mason City
E. McEwen	1881	Hahnemann	Mason City
F. E. McGlone	1895	Iowa State University	Mason City
S. M. Mason	1893	Hahnemann	Mason City
I. G. Murphy	1893	Howard College	Mason City
L. E. Newcomer	1903	Rush Medical College	Mason City
I. I. Nicol	1895	Keokuk Medical College	Mason City
A. B. Phillips	1902	Northwestern University	Clear Lake
I. G. Rhoades	1909	Drake Medical College	Mason City
C. P. Smith	1895	Rush Medical College	Mason City
C. F. Starr	1906	Iowa State University	Mason City
W. C. Stearnes	1894	Rush Medical College	Mason City
G. C. Stockman	1879	Rush Medical College	Mason City
C. M. Swale	1895	Rush Medical College	Mason City
J. C. Wright	1880	Iowa State University	Clear Lake
C. E. Wright	1898	Iowa State University	Clear Lake
B. F. Weston	1891	Rush Medical College	Mason City
A. A. Noyes	1849	Iowa State University	Mason City



The following are the officers of the society for 1910: President, F. E. McGlone, of Mason City; vice president, A. B. Phillips, of Clear Lake; secretary and treasurer, C. E. Dakin, of Mason City.

The following physicians are practicing in the county but are not members of the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society: C. C. Birney, Mason City; C. L. Marston, Mason City; W. B. Harrington, Swaledale; F. S. Agler, Meservey; H. A. Abegg, Dougherty; T. M. Garvin, Dougherty; H. D. Holman, Rockwell.

#### MASON CITY HOSPITALS.

It has been said that "this is really a hospital age" and people are demanding the modern treatment of their ailments and in the majority of cases this cannot be given them unless they are treated in a modern hospital. They have wearied of being told that they must be transported hundreds of miles to the large cities to be given hospital attention. Then too, those who are suffering from disease do not wish to jeopardize their chances by long railroad journeys, or to be taken away from their homes and friends, often to be charged high fees for medical and surgical work. People realize that the family physician is the one who must have their interests at stake and it is his ability as a physician and surgeon that they must lean upon through life.

"The advantages of the small hospital keeps the family physician in touch with his patients and gives him an opportunity to see and study diseased conditions, and what is of benefit to the local physician is equally beneficial to his clientele." The foregoing is a quotation from the prospectus of the City Park Hospital for 1910.

City Park Hospital.—The City Park Hospital was organized and put in operation in 1909 with the following officers in charge: Dr. C. M. Swale, president; Dr. Chas. L. Marston, vice president; Dr. C. F. Starr, secretary and treasurer; Dr. W. E. Long, Dr. Fred Albert and Dr. F. G. Murphy, members of the staff.

The Story Hospital.—The Story Hospital was opened to the public in 1901 by the Misses Sophia and Dolly Story. Unlike the City Park hospital, which is incorporated under the laws of Iowa, the Story hospital is a private institution. The Story sisters are both graduates of the Michael Reese Hospital and School for Nurses of Chicago, one of the best schools in the country. Each has had long experience in nursing and hospital work.

Touching the hospitals and medical fraternity of Mason City, a few salient, established facts stand plainly forth. Among these facts are the following: First, in its medical profession Mason City possesses those who are, both as physicians and surgeons, the equal of any in the country; second, that the reason for this proficiency lies partly in the presence of two first-class, modernly equipped and managed hospitals which furnish a proper and favorable, field for the successful acquirement of the applied sciences of both medicine and surgery, and partly to the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society, which, in its present hands and under its present management and use by the profession, through its lectures and discussions and incidental study required, furnishes to its active, participating members what amounts to a continuing post-graduate course in a first-class medical college; third, that the more skilful of the physicians and surgeons are divided between the two hospitals, a part serving at each; fourth, in all essentials the two hospitals are equal.

#### TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

In connection with the City Park Hospital there is also a training school for nurses. Miss Helen Gill, herself a graduate nurse of skill and long experience, is superintendent of the City Park Hospital and principal of the Nurses Training School. This school was established in 1909. It meets all the requirements of the state board of health and has been placed on the accredited list of training schools of the state. Its graduates will be admitted to examination as applicants for state certificate of registration.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE PRESS OF CERRO GORDO COUNTY.

PRESS A PRIME FACTOR IN HISTORY MAKING—CRITERION BY WHICH TO JUDGE A PEOPLE—ACCURACY OF PRESS ANNALS—DATUS E. COON—THE CERRO GORDO PRESS, FIRST NEWSPAPER—THE CERRO GORDO COUNTY REPUBLICAN—LIST OF JOURNALISTS CONNECTED WITH IT—CLEAR LAKE INDEPENDENT—CLEAR LAKE MIRROR—MASON CITY EXPRESS—THE FREEMAN—MASON CITY TIMES—MASON CITY GAZETTE—MASON CITY DAILY GLOBE—ROCKWELL PHONOGRAPH—CLEAR LAKE REPORTER—OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

If the press of a country is not in itself the history of its people, it constitutes a mine of facts and details from which the materials for such a history can be obtained. Not only that, but it reproduces the proper atmosphere of time and place which ought always to surround the writer of history. In perusing a file of ancient newspapers one views the actions, hears the comment in the current vernacular and obtains the view point of actors and spectators of the life of a bygone day, week, month or year, not through the blurring media of retrospect, but as a contemporary who sees and hears the sights and sounds with his own material eyes and ears.

There is no better way of judging a people than by its press. In the news columns we get the life, detail by detail, of the people as it is lived day by day, and in the editorial columns we get an intelligent expression of the average of popular, contemporary opinion regarding all important passing events as well as an intelligent expression of the hopes, aspirations and desires which at the given time animate and impel the people. In the absence of a recording and preservative press the incidents in the life of a people soon pass from being facts of common, contemporaneous knowledge into the mere recollection of actors and spectators and from this into tradition, folklore and, finally, into mere legend, distorted and changed from the original by the misrepresentations

of malice and prejudice, the losses from lapse of time and the additions and coloring of the imagination.

We safely assume the accuracy of a country's annals as recorded in its press. In the first place, the publisher cannot afford, as a matter of business policy, to be inaccurate in his columns of recorded facts. In the second place, he is answerable in purse and person for wilful misstatement and the liability for libel and the possibility of personal assault ever tend towards care for the truth. In a word, of all professions that of journalist is the noblest; of all the various evangelists of civilization, he is the most puissant; of historians the most impartial, copious and accurate.

The first journalist of Cerro Gordo county was Datus E. Coon, who established the *Cerro Gordo Press* in 1858. Mr. Coon however, could scarcely be called a journalist or even a newspaper man, in the proper acceptance of that term. He was not a practical printer, nor was he one who followed the newspaper business for the sake of the work or as a chosen calling, but was one of those adventurers who hover among the frontier settlements, picking up the public and official printing relating to land entries, final proofs, surveys, tax lists, etc.; in other words making the business a mere money getting makeshift for the time being. When he came to Mason City, he came from Osage, where he had been running a land office newspaper and having gathered the cream, he came to Cerro Gordo as furnishing a virgin field for exploitation. After remaining in Cerro Gordo until the juice of the orange was pretty well sucked out, he took his printing outfit to Hancock county and set his handy press going there. It is said that for several years during the '50s and the first of the '60s, the *Press* was the official paper of half a dozen counties grouped in this immediate region and during that time printed enough tax list supplements to carpet all the settlers' cabins in the whole region.

Being himself a Democrat in politics, running a newspaper in a community strongly Republican, Coon was constrained to keep the *Press* rather neutral in politics and not being himself a practical printer, he was obliged to obtain the help of others for the mechanical part of the labor. While in Mason City, this part of the work on the *Press* fell to Will Ed. Tucker and C. C. Doolittle. The *Press* was a seven column folio, "all printed at home." As a necessary adjunct to the main business of the paper, which was to



do the public and official printing, the *Press* undoubtedly printed the news of the day and made intelligent and interesting comment on passing events, for in assertiveness, intelligence and energy, Coon was far above the ordinary man on the frontier. The files of the *Press* long since went the way of all things earthly and, as a consequence, two more years of the history of the county and its people and times of early days is relegated to the musty and imperfect public records, to the personal recollections of the aged and the still surviving traditions, folklore and legends of the past.

Datus E. Coon was never a journalist and frontier newspaper work never furnished him a proper field for the exercise of his talents. It was not until the battle flags were unfurled and the war drums throbbed that he found his true calling, that he was enabled to come into his own. When the Civil war broke out, he threw down the pencil and took up the sword and did not lay it down until after Appomattox. He marched to the front as captain of Company I of the Second Iowa Cavalry. He was promoted to major and then to colonel of the regiment and ere the close of the war he wore the emblazoned stars of a brevet brigadier general. After the war, like "Col. Servosse," he went on a "Fool's Errand" and settled in the subjugated and bitterly resentful South. He settled in Alabama. As ought to have been expected, it proved a fool's errand and, although he endured the constant hostility and persecutions for more than ten years, he was glad, in 1877, to accept a U. S. consulship at Baracoa, Cuba, and, with his family, removed from the South forever. After going through the battles of a four years' war and running the gauntlet of ten years' persecution in the South, he died in times of peace among friends, by an accident on the Pacific coast.

*The Cerro Gordo County Republican.*

About the time that Datus E. Coon was forsaking the field of journalism and girding on his sword for war, J. H. Aylesworth, a local schoolmaster, went to Chicago and bought a printing outfit which he brought to Mason City and set up. From his new press he issued a six-column folio newspaper, which he called the *Republican*, a name to conjure by in those days. Aylesworth remained with his new venture only about a year and in 1862, sold out to H. G. Parker and C. W. Tobin, one of his compositors. Tobin soon dropped the "rule" and "shooting stick" and should-

ered a musket and marched off to Dixie. In 1863, Parker sold a half interest to Silan Noyes, an experienced newspaper man, Parker and Noyes continued to publish the *Republican* until 1867, when Parker sold his interest to S. A. Sirrine. Within the next five or six years the paper changed hands several times. Noyes and Holt succeeded Noyes and Sirrine; then came N. V. Brower, Brower and Russell, and N. V. Brower again.

N. V. Brower was a soldier of the Civil war and had risen to the rank of captain. After severing his relations with the *Republican* he engaged in journalistic work elsewhere, being at one time editor of the Dubuque *Times*. Owing to poor health he finally engaged in farming and owned and operated a large farm in Hancock county near Garner. While a resident of Hancock county, he was elected to the state senate from the counties of Hancock, Cerro Gordo and Franklin. In 1893, while still a member of the state senate, he became editor of the Mason City *Daily Globe*, a new publication just started by that Nestor of Mason City journalism, Rec Stanbery. Shortly after the expiration of his last term in the state senate, he moved to Indiana, where a few years later he died. N. V. Brower must be accorded a place in the front rank of Cerro Gordo county journalism.

In the fall of 1873 Silan Noyes and George R. Lanning bought the *Republican* and continued its publication until the death of Mr. Noyes in 1875. Lanning succeeded Noyes and Lanning and published the paper until October 1876, at which time John West took the paper for debt. At this time it was a nine-column folio, all home print. It has been said of Lanning that he "was a young man of fine ability and prospect. He had grown up in Cerro Gordo county, learned his trade here, and was well known and popular. He was a pungent writer and a good newspaper man." It is a great misfortune that the files of the *Republican* up to 1875 have all been lost.

About November 1, 1878, John West sold the *Republican* to Captain W. V. Lucas, who came to Mason City from Waverly, Bremer county. Captain Lucas had been a soldier of the Civil war and had earned the right to wear the "shoulder straps" of a captain. Lucas brought to the *Republican* not only great talents but a thorough knowledge of the newspaper business. In October, 1879, Lucas sold a half interest to another experienced newspaper man, C. G. Sargent. March 4, 1880, Sargent retired and the firm became W. V. Lucas and Son; the son being A. B. Lucas.

In the fall of 1880 Captain Lucas was elected to the office of state auditor and the work of running the *Republican* fell on Briney Lucas. In April, 1883, W. V. Lucas and Son sold the paper to Leo Chapman, a talented and experienced young journalist who came from the Des Moines *State Register* to take charge of the *Republican*.

Captain W. V. Lucas was one of the ablest newspaper writers who has ever engaged in the journalistic work in Cerro Gordo county. He was not only an able writer, but, in some respects, the most effective speaker who has made their home in this county. As a writer and speaker, he was able, versatile and convincing. After severing his connection with the *Republican* he removed with his family to South Dakota, where he was for some years in charge of the Soldiers Home in that state. Later he removed to the Pacific coast where, at this writing, 1910, he still resides.

In his management of the *Republican*, Leo Chapman was ably assisted by his talented wife, Carrie Lane Chapman, who afterward achieved a world-wide reputation as a woman suffragist leader. During the later eighties the *Republican* passed into the hands of L. L. Klinefelter and was shortly after consolidated with the Mason City *Express* owned and published by Will Ed. Tucker. The paper now became the *Express-Republican* under the joint ownership of Tucker and Klinefelter. It later passed into the hands of the Bailey Bros., who also did a ready print business.

In the early nineties the Myers Bros., Chas. K. and F. W., bought the paper of the Baileys. The Myers Bros. retained possession of the paper until 1906, when they sold out to the Stanbery syndicate. The Stanberys published it until 1909, when they sold it to its present owners, the Globe-Gazette Printing Company. The Stanberys knocked out the hyphen, eliminated the prefix "Express" and restored it to its ancient name, *Republican*.

The rise of the daily press caused the decline of the staid old weekly *Republican*. The Stanberys' tried hard to stay the old paper's decline. Rec, Harry and "Mose" Stanbery are among the best experienced and most successful newspaper men Mason City has ever produced and among the best in northern Iowa and they gave to the groggy old fighting *Republican* all the aid in their power in the way of prestige, money, brains and experience, but

it couldn't come back, and they sold it. Its days are practically numbered. It is the oldest established paper in the county and was for long years the leading paper, the "Thunderer," but, unless there is the interposition of a miracle, the old, time-honored newspaper will soon go the way of the *Express* to the bone-yard.

#### *Clear Lake Independent.*

The *Independent*, with Silan Noyes and John M. Brainard as editors and proprietors, was the first newspaper published at Clear Lake. This was in 1860. It was a home print six-column folio. The time, however, was too early and the *Independent* after a year's struggle was taken to Upper Grove, Hancock county, where, after a little further struggle with a world to which it had come too soon, it perished.

It was ten years before the newspaper experiment was tried again at Clear Lake. In 1870 H. D. Lindley issued the first number of the *Clear Lake Observer*. It was printed on the press used by Owen P. Lovejoy at the time of his murder by a pro-slavery mob at Alton. The press, type, etc., had been thrown into the river by the brave mob after the murder of the heroic martyr of freedom. In 1859 the press was bought by D. B. Mead of Cresco, where it lay, for \$35 and taken to Cresco, where it was used until taken to Clear Lake in 1869. Lindley had no money and, after issuing fifteen numbers, left. George E. Frost, who had already advanced money to Lindley, now took charge of the paper and issued the paper until May, 1872, when he sold out to Judge M. P. Rosecrans. It had been a strong Republican paper under Frost; it became independent under Rosecrans, who was a Democrat. After a few months Rosecrans sold it out and the paper was moved to Belmond. Shortly after this George E. Frost bought an entirely new outfit and, in company with Frank Bush, again issued the paper. After several changes, during which time a printer named Brady owned it for a year, the paper in 1879 passed into the hands of Frank Bush, who changed the name to

#### *The Clear Lake Mirror.*

Mr. Bush did not retain possession of the paper long before he sold to M. Cooley and Sons, but in a short time, in partnership



with D. W. Hurn, repurchased it. Then Charles Cooley and another newspaper man by the name of Eldridge came into possession. Then Thomas Gray and Cooley and then Cooley and William Gray came into the heritage. "Charley" Cooley and "Bill" Gray were two as good newspaper men as ever ran a paper in the county. Cooley sold out and left the county several years ago. Gray, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, is still a citizen of Clear Lake and is its postmaster. Gray is one of the ablest writers our county press has produced.

*Mason City Express.*

The *Express* was founded in December, 1870, the founders being J. G. Hamlin and J. R. Kirk. Hamlin and Kirk published the *Express* less than a year and sold in July, 1871, to Will Ed. Tucker and H. R. Spink. Tucker and Spink published the *Express* until June, 1874, when Spink became sole proprietor, Tucker remaining as editor. In April, 1876, Tucker bought the paper from Spink. Up to September, 1878, the *Express* had been an eight-column folio. It was then changed to a seven-column quarto. Tucker remained editor and proprietor of the *Express* until its consolidation with the *Republican*, as already related.

*The Freeman.*

In 1876 a joint stock company started a six-column folio paper with the name of the *Freeman*. The paper was an organ of anti-Masonry. After a life of four months it succumbed for want of patronage. It was, however, for a few months more continued under the name of the *Cynosure*, under the editorial and business control of Rev. James Hawkins and Theron Palmeter. It soon died again and this time there was no resurrection. The nominal editors and owners of the *Freeman* had been, J. H. Vandever and Theron Palmeter.

*The Western Democrat.*

The first issue of the *Western Democrat* appeared on the 28th day of February, 1877, as an eight-column folio. Its editors and proprietors were Rec Stanbery and James B. Adams. The *Democrat* remained the joint property of Stanbery and Adams

for only about four months, when Adams sold out to Stanbery, who continued as editor and proprietor till 1880, when he sold out to T. C. Medary, who changed the name to the *North Iowa Journal*. In 1882 Medary, failed and the paper went back to Stanbery. Stanbery changed the name of the paper to the

*Mason City-Times*

and made it an eight-column folio. Stanbery added a new and complete line of machinery, including an engine and Taylor press, giving him one of the best, if not the best printing plants in the city. In 1888 W. W. Goddard, who had been publishing a paper at Sioux Falls, came to Mason City, bought out Stanbery and consolidated the *Herald* with the *Times* under the name of the *Times Herald*. Goddard was not a financier and in a short time failed and the paper went into the hands of a receiver with Harry Stanbery in charge. Finally a syndicate of prominent Democrats purchased the paper and made Goddard editor and manager. Goddard continued to conduct the paper until late in the 90s when the paper having become hopelessly bankrupt, it was sold to Rec, Harry and "Mose" Stanbery. It was finally syndicated, Rec Stanbery holding a large share of stock. There were many turnings and twistings for the next few years in the paper's ownership. Rec and Mose Stanbery finally sold out and a new stock company took possession. Emory H. English of Des Moines, finally became editor and part owner. Under English the paper became strong and influential. English, although absent part of the time at Des Moines, as state printer, still has editorial control of the paper. It is one of the recognized organs of the Progressive faction of the Republican party in Iowa.

*The Mason City Gazette.*

In 1887, Will Ed Tucker and Harry E. Stanbery founded the above named paper and were owners, managers and editors until the paper was sold to Peedan and Marine, owners of the *Mason City Daily Globe*. The *Gazette*, which was a weekly, was consolidated with the *Daily Globe* and became a part of the *Globe Gazette*. The *Gazette* was probably the most successful weekly paper ever established in Mason City. Its proprietors, Tucker and Stanbery, were well fitted to work together. Will Ed

Tucker was a veteran in the Cerro Gordo newspaper field having begun his apprenticeship in that work in the county back in the '50s. He had a peculiar and taking style of writing and had hosts of friends. It is enough to say of Harry Stanbery that he was and is yet, in 1910, the best newsgatherer who ever worked on a Mason City newspaper.

The *Globe-Gazette* is, in the autumn of 1910, building a fine brick structure, three stories high, besides a well lighted basement. The building is 66 feet square. The *Globe-Gazette* will occupy this building.

#### *The Mason City Daily Globe.*

The *Daily Globe* was founded in the fall of 1893 by Rec Stanbery with himself as publisher and manager, N. V. Brower as editor and Chas. H. Gelo as city editor. From the first the *Globe* assumed a place at the head of Cerro Gordo county journalism and this place it has maintained down to the present time, although the *Daily Times* is a very close second at the present time. In the fall of 1894 Stanbery sold a half interest to W. H. Peedan and the firm became Stanbery and Peedan. In the early summer of 1895 Stanbery sold his remaining interest to Captain S. A. Marine of Des Moines, and the firm became Peedan and Marine, with Peedan as business manager and Marine as editor. About 1898 Peedan and Marine sold out to Muse and Conroy, who have conducted the paper ever since, with Muse as editor and Conroy as business manager.

#### *The Rockwell Phonograph.*

The *Rockwell Phonograph* was established in 1879 by Rugg S. McEwen, the first issue being published October 25, of that year. In the following month McEwen retired from the paper, and E. V. Whittlesey was connected until the fall of 1881, when Mr. Rugg became sole proprietor. On the retirement of Mr. Rugg a few years later, a stock company was formed in which W. L. McEwen of Floyd county, secured a controlling share and in company with his son, E. E. McEwen assumed management of the paper. Later W. A. Grummon came into this firm, when they bought up all the shares and became sole proprietors. W. L. McEwen was one of the most successful and pleasing writers on local

topics the press of Cerro Gordo has as yet developed, and the *Phonograph* under his editorial management was one of the best local papers in the county.

Upon the death of Mr. McEwen, in 1905, W. A. Grummon assumed editorial management of the *Phonograph*. Mr. Grummon is one of the most forceful and virile political writers at present writing for the press in Iowa and it is a misfortune that his labors along these lines are to a great extent hidden in the columns of a village newspaper. Under his charge, however, the *Phonograph* is probably the most influential paper published in Cerro Gordo county.

#### *Clear Lake Reporter.*

The *Clear Lake Reporter* was established in 1889 by J. C. Davenport, who has remained editor and proprietor until the time of this writing in 1910, and judging from the present prosperity of the *Reporter*, and the success of Mr. Davenport in his journalistic enterprise, there seems little likelihood of any change for years to come. The *Reporter* under the charge of Mr. Davenport is a first-class local paper and stands for law, order and good morals.

#### PLYMOUTH NEWSPAPERS.

The *Plymouth News* was established in 1881. The *News* lasted a year and then sold its lists to the *Cerro Gordo Republican*. A few years later the *Plymouth Pilot* was established, but soon followed in the wake of the *News*. Since then other experiments have been tried at Plymouth in the newspaper field, but none have proved successful.

Other small towns in the county have had a like experience. Swaledale is a case of this kind. Several years ago the *Bee* was established there and struggled along for a few years and suspended. Later the *Record* traveled over the same route.

The Thornton *Enterprise* and the Meservey *Messenger* were exceptions to this rule. The *Enterprise* was established in the early nineties and still persists and the same is true of the *Messenger*. Horace Greeley founded the *Enterprise* and Joseph Moore, the *Messenger*. Over at Dougherty, the *World* was founded in 1902 by E. M. Wilson. The *World* is still flourishing.



## CHAPTER XV.

### BENCH AND BAR OF CERRO GORDO.

EARLY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS—FIRST TERM OF COURT IN COUNTY—EARLY JUDGES—EARLY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS—LIST OF JUDGES WHO HAVE OCCUPIED BENCH—LIST OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS—LIST OF COUNTY ATTORNEYS—LIST OF ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE PRACTICED IN COUNTY NOW DECEASED—THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED AWAY AND KNOWN TO BE LIVING IN 1910—THOSE WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN—PRESENT BAR—COURT ANNALS AND HUMAN INTEREST WHICH ATTACHES TO THEM—HUMOR AND PATHOS—ANECDOTES—ORTHOGRAPHY—WITNESSES—GEO. W. RUDDICK, FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGE—HIS DEATH—CLIGGITT'S EULOGY DELIVERED BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT.

*By John Cliggitt.*

As most all of the lawyers of the county have been residents of Mason City, and those living elsewhere in the county, have had much to do with court matters at Mason City during terms of court and at other times, it appears proper to include all those of the county as part of the judicial history of Mason City.

A full account of the bench and bar of the county, the characters, qualities and works of the individual members would be entertaining and instructive. But the purpose and limitations of this publication will not permit such a representation. We can only briefly give but little more than the names of the members of the bench and bar of the past and present. Many have died, others have moved away. In place of those others are now in goodly numbers serving the public in the great profession of the law. Cerro Gordo county was organized in 1855. The tenth judicial district then contained the counties of Cerro Gordo, Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, Winneshiek and Worth.

In 1857 Cerro Gordo became a part of the eleventh judicial district, composed of Boone, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hamilton,

Hancock, Hardin, Marshall, Story, Webster, Winnebago, Worth and Wright. Later, in 1865, the twelfth judicial district was formed of the counties of Hancock, Winnebago, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Mitchell, Floyd, Bremer and Butler. Those eight counties at present constitute the twelfth judicial district.

In 1868 the district was divided into two circuits. Mitchell, Floyd, Bremer and Butler counties were in the first circuit and Cerro Gordo, Worth, Winnebago and Hancock counties in the second circuit. A district judge and two circuit judges were the judiciary of the district. There was then a district attorney for the eight counties. In 1872 the legislature provided that the circuit should embrace the same counties as the district and that thereafter, beginning January 1, 1873, there should be but one judge of the circuit court in the judicial district. In 1886 the circuit court was abolished by the legislature and an additional district judge provided for.

The first term of the district court in the county was held in 1857, Judge Murdock of Clayton county presiding. He died a few years ago. From 1858 to about 1863 John Porter was judge of this court. For a time he lived at Mason City, afterwards and until his death a few years ago he lived at Eldora. During his term William P. Hepburn, well known in Iowa as representative in Congress from the 8th district, and D. D. Chase of Webster City, acted as district attorneys. On the creation of the district as it now is William B. Fairfield, of Charles City, became district judge until he resigned in 1870 and was succeeded by George W. Ruddick of Waverly, who held the office until 1893. He had previously held the office of circuit judge for the first circuit. From January, 1893, to January, 1897, P. W. Burr of Charles City, filled the office as successor to Judge Ruddick. R. G. Reiniger of Charles City, on Judge Ruddick's transfer to the district court was circuit judge of the first circuit until 1873 and H. N. Brockway, of Garner, was judge of the second circuit from its organization until 1873 and Judge Reiniger continued as judge of the circuit until 1885 and was then succeeded by John B. Cleland of Osage, who held the office until January, 1887, when the court was abolished and its records and business transferred to the district court, and he by operation of law became judge of the district court. Judge Cleland resigned in 1888 and John C. Sherwin of Mason City succeeded him and held the office until in the fall of 1899 he was nominated for and elected to the office

of judge of the supreme court, of which he is still one of the judges. J. F. Clyde in 1897 succeeded Judge Burr on the bench and is now one of the district judges. In 1898 an additional judge for the district was provided for, since which time the court has been made up of three district judges. In 1899 Clifford P. Smith of Mason City succeeded Judge Sherwin and held the office until he resigned in 1908 and was succeeded by J. J. Clark of Mason City, who is now one of the judges. Since 1898, J. F. Clyde of Osage, and C. H. Kelly, formerly of Forest City, now of Charles City, have been and now are the other two judges of the district court.

Judges Murdock, Porter, Fairfield, Ruddick and Brockway are all deceased. Judge Reiniger still lives at Charles City.

The district attorneys have been W. P. Hepburn, D. D. Chase of Webster City; John E. Burke of Waverly; Irving W. Card of Mason City; L. S. Butler of Northwood; John B. Cleland of Osage; John C. Sherwin of Mason City. Mr. Sherwin was the last district attorney, the office having been abolished and that of a county attorney substituted before the completion of his first term. Of these Chase, Card and Butler are dead. Burke moved to Chicago many years ago, whether he is still living the writer is unable to state. Hepburn lives in the southwestern part of the state. Cleland moved to Portland, Oregon, some years ago and still lives there, holding the office of judge there. Sherwin is now one of the justices of the supreme court of Iowa and lives at Mason City.

The county attorneys have been J. J. Clark, D. W. Telford, L. C. Rinard, Earl Smith, R. M. Witwer, J. C. Robinson, all of Mason City, and D. W. Hurn of Clear Lake. Rinard now lives in Montana and Hurn lives at Spokane, Wash. All of the others now live at Mason City, J. J. Clark being one of the judges of the district court.

The roll of attorneys who have lived and practiced law in the county is a long one. Those who resided and practiced law in the county, now deceased, are: Thomas Drummond, Captain A. B. Miller, Jarvis S. Church, John Porter, George Hartshorn, W. C. Stanbery, I. W. Card, George R. Miller, F. M. Goodykoontz, R. Wilber, Edwin Flint, N. P. Merrill, D. C. Bancroft, W. Scott Johnson, Charles Husted, A. B. Tuttle, James Crow, Nathan Bass, Alexander Campbell, M. P. Rosecrans, George E. Frost, Charles Mackenzie, Morris Cliggitt, T. J. McConlogue.

Of those who have practiced here and moved away, now known to be living, are the following:

D. T. Gibson, E. S. Wheeler, B. F. Hartshorn, F. J. Bush, Preston Brothers, John Connell, John Reed, L. C. Rinard, D. W. Hurn, M. S. Schermerhorn, George Konrath, Clifford P. Smith, J. L. Lee, J. W. Adams, C. H. Hughes, D. A. Mizner, George Kirschman, Clayton D. Eulette, Joseph Campbell, C. H. Allen, Percy C. Church, J. H. Quick, Atnoeson Moen.

Of those who have lived and practiced here and moved away and it is not known whether they are now living are the following: J. W. Murphy, J. K. Boyd, H. P. Gray, E. W. Whittlesey, J. W. Gilliam, J. R. Gage, J. H. Briden.

The following are the present members of the bar of the county. All but two of them are residents of Mason City. All of them entered upon the practice here since 1870. We give their names as nearly as we can in the order as to the time of their beginning practice here:

John S. Stanbery, John Cliggitt, John D. Glass, A. H. Cummings, Judge J. J. Clark, Judge John C. Sherwin, D. W. Telford, W. A. Burnap, Jas. E. Blythe, J. E. E. Markley, P. J. Dougherty, J. H. McConlogue, Duncan Rule, R. M. Witwer, B. C. Keeler, Frank W. Chambers, A. L. Kimball, F. A. Kirschman, T. G. McDermott, L. A. Hill, Hugh H. Shepard, J. C. Robinson, S. A. Koch, A. L. Rule, Ira Jones, Earl Smith, Clare H. Smith, R. W. Stanbery, F. A. Ontjes, H. E. Law, Wiley S. Rankin, G. E. Breese, M. C. Coughlin, John P. Shireliffe, Remley J. Glass, D. J. Fitzpatrick, E. G. Dunn.

In preparing these various lists some may have been overlooked from want of records or other information.

The records and files of court proceedings stored in the court house vaults, covering a period of fifty-five years, contain much material for the study of the sociologist as well as for the law student.

The written pleadings filed by the attorneys, in their form and substance, are of various degrees of merit, ranging from those which show the science and art of the learned, skilled and apt pleader down to those showing the work of the amateur and sometimes of the bunglers, who apparently thought a study of the principles of pleading would detract from their natural or inherent legal abilities. They also show much of human character, trials, tribulations, of passion and prejudice, of dispute and controversy,



of selfishness and parsimony, much of sympathy, truth, justice and tenderness, much of domestic discord and infelicity, much of effort to condemn and convict men and women of crime, and much of valiant struggles in defense of life, liberty, property and character. The verdicts of juries and the judgments based thereon, while sometimes possibly containing error, on the whole very fairly sustain and vindicate the merits of the system of trial by jury.

While in some instances it might be claimed there was a miscarriage in the application of the criminal law by which some offender has escaped, yet a fact of much more moment and importance to us is, that these records show the honesty of purpose and good conscience and the humanity and concern of men for the rights and welfare of their fellowmen, when free from passion, self interest or prejudice that leads jurors naturally to prefer to save rather than to destroy, to acquit rather than convict of crime unless the evidence convinces their judgment, reason and understanding, beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the accused.

From the written instructions prepared by the different judges, a very good legal digest of most every phase of the law applicable to conditions in this region of the country might be compiled. They are the condensed results evolved by the lawyers and judges through many laborious days and nights, of diligent and severe study of statutes, judicial opinions and text books.

During all these years of the past, how much of wit, eloquence and argument both prosaic and poetical, has vanished, which might have been saved to amuse and instruct the present and future generations had the phonograph recorded the words, sounds, tones of voice of counsel in their various addresses to judges and juries. Like Hamlet at the grave of Poor Yorick, one may imagine somewhat of the infinite jests and excellent fancies, flashes of merriment, the quiddets quilllets cases and somewhat of tricks of these lawyers dead and living, spoken and done in advocacy of their client's causes, but they cannot now be produced in their living reality.

That modern orthography had been neglected in the early education of some of the bar members appears in their written pleadings. Such spelling as "pigg," waggon," "brake" and "braking praree" indicates. This was probably in anticipation of the present quite general contempt of the schools for the spelling book.

Sometimes the lawyer's recollection of poetical phrases was

cloudy and on one occasion Shakespeare's—"Who filches from me my good name robs me of that which enriches him not and makes me very poor indeed" became in the heat and hurry of counsel's argument converted in the ending—"steals from me what don't do him any good and hurts me a good deal"—and the counsel explained that he never was good at quoting poetry.

Another applied a coarse sensuous expression which referred to a female character in Byron's "Don Juan," to the chaste, delicate, refined and virtuous Juliet in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet."

Another attributed to the Scripture the phrase about keeping the promise to the ear but breaking it to the hope. The judge, aware that the expression was Shakespearian, inquired for the chapter and verse of the Scripture in which the expression might be found. The lawyer of ready wit responded that he was addressing the jury, men who were familiar with Scripture, but if he was addressing the court he would deem it necessary to cite the chapter and verse.

On one occasion a lawyer in the defense of a criminal case, becoming much offended at a remark of counsel on the other side, grabbed up the code of Iowa, a somewhat bulky volume, and was about to throw it at the head of the offending opponent. Another lawyer suddenly objected to the introduction of the code in evidence in that form, as incompetent, immaterial and irrelevant.

The court sustained the objection and the incident, so violent and threatening in form, was peaceably and quietly closed. The bellicose demonstration was in reality Pickwickian in its nature.

One lawyer accused a witness on the other side of having a cheek so hard that if the fellow struck the ground with it he would knock the apples off the earth in China.

A railroad lawyer charged an agent of the company with stealing \$200.00 of the company's money. The attorney for the accused agent responded that if his client stole the whole railroad, the value would not amount to enough to make the theft more than petit larceny.

Another lawyer arguing a motion involving a point of law, was advised by the judge that his claim was not the law. The lawyer complacently responded that he did not think his point was good, but that he did not know but the court would think it was good.

Witnesses have had their full share in exhibitions of wit,

sometimes purposely, and at other times unconsciously. One being hard pressed for a description of the person of another whose identity was an important factor in the case, was asked to state the color of the hair of the man involved. After repeated efforts to evade an attempt at description, he finally answered, "I passed no re-ma-a-rks upon his hair." Asked to state the height of the man, and after repeated directions of the court to give his best judgment or recollection of the man's height he said, "Then I must give me best judgment; well, if I must give me best judgment I will. I think the man was between four and eleven feet high but I made no record of his height." This convulsed the bystanders, jury and court with laughter and discomfited the cross examining counsel, while the witness, greatly edified and "deelightened," retained his stolid composure.

A party on trial on charge of keeping liquors with intent to sell them unlawfully, testified as a witness that the article which the state claimed he sold was an antidote to the drink habit, excelling, in remedial qualities, the more recent and far-famed "Gold Cure." Asked by the district attorney to state the ingredients of his remedy, he objected, that he should not be required to give his valuable secret to the public or to the jury but he offered to give some of the remedy to the judge. The latter enjoyed the intimation contained in this offer that if the judge took the remedy judicial business might be improved. The judge was a total abstainer and a vigorous administrator of the prohibitory law, but had a florid countenance.

Another charged with a public offense had no means to employ an attorney. The court offered to appoint an attorney to defend the man and advised him that there were many good attorneys present, that defendant could look them over and choose some one of the array of able counsel to defend him. The man stood up carefully and searchingly scanned and mentally measured up the apparent qualifications of the different attorneys, then with a discouraged look, and a sigh as if hope and faith were abandoned he advised the court that he had better not have an attorney, that it looked to him that "the cure was worse than the disease." The court enjoyed the intimation as a fresh joke on the attorneys.

These are only a few of many similar scenes and expressions in our history of the legal practice. Many of the actors, judges, lawyers, jurors, witnesses and pastors have passed from earth. Many are still earnestly laboring, but all necessarily fol-

lowing their departed brethren in that great and never ending funeral march to the grave.

#### JUDGE RUDDICK.

The circuit court was created in 1868, and in January, 1869, George W. Ruddick of Waverly, was made judge of the eastern circuit of the 12th judicial district. He served as circuit judge until October, 1870, when on the resignation of Judge Fairfield he was appointed district judge of the 12th judicial district, in which capacity he served until January, 1893.

He died in 1905. On the occasion of his death the members of the bar of the 12th judicial district met and appointed a committee of one member of the bar from each county in the district, to prepare resolutions of respect to his memory, and to present them to the courts in the several counties, and to the supreme court of the state. John Cliggitt of Mason City was a member of this committee.

In addition to presenting the resolutions of respect, Mr. Cliggitt pronounced a eulogy on the life and services of his friend. A eulogy, not only the greatest ever heard in our supreme court, but ever heard in the state of Iowa. It was one great lawyer speaking in behalf of another. We present Mr. Cliggitt's eulogy, not only because of its literary merits as a classic among the eulogies pronounced on great lawyers, by great lawyers, but also to show the kind of judges who dispensed justice, and guided the jurisprudence of Cerro Gordo county forty years ago.

#### CLIGGITT'S EULOGY ON JUDGE RUDDICK.

"Judge Ruddick was born in Sullivan county, New York, May 11, 1835, and died at his home in Waverly, Bremer county, on December 12, 1905. In 1849 he went to Ohio, lived there three years, then returned to New York. There he studied law in the office of a prominent lawyer for nearly three years and then entered the Albany Law School, from which, after a year's study, he graduated in 1856, and then came back and located at Waverly, at which place he made his home during the remainder of his life.

"There he entered upon the practice of his profession. He was county judge of Bremer county for two years from in January, 1864. He was a member of the legislature in 1868. In that



year the circuit court was created. The 12th judicial district was divided into two circuits. The eastern circuit contained the counties of Butler, Bremer, Floyd and Mitchell. The western was made up of Cerro Gordo, Worth, Winnebago and Hancock counties. From in January, 1869, to October, 1870, he was judge of the circuit court for the eastern circuit, and from that time to January, 1893, he was judge of the district court of the 12th judicial district,—a long period of twenty-four years.

“On retirement from the bench he engaged in practice as a lawyer and so continued until his last sickness compelled him to relinquish his work.

“He was of a strong, robust, healthy, vigorous constitution and had lived according to the best approved methods and habits of life for the preservation of physical and mental health and strength, so that in the ordinary course of nature, he was in all respects apparently capable of many more years of valuable legal service. But about three years ago he was assailed by the dreaded and generally incurable disease of cancer, which finally closed his life work.

“I became acquainted with him while he was holding the June, 1871, term of court in Cerro Gordo county. From that time until the close of his judicial career I was in his court during almost every term he held in that county, and very often in other counties of the district, so that during those times I saw much of his work and became well acquainted with his methods, character and qualities as a judge.

“During the greater portion of the time he served as judge the means and conveniences for holding courts and doing legal business were much less than they now are. The court houses then in the four western counties of the district were quite primitive and rude, inconvenient and uncomfortable in comparison with the beautiful, commodious and convenient ones of the present time.

“Law libraries were then fewer and much smaller than they now are.

“Text books, reports and digests were few compared with those now within our reach in almost every county of our judicial district.

“When he began his service as judge, the jurisprudence of our state was still in its comparatively early period. The decis-

ions of our own, this court, were contained in thirty volumes of reports.

“So judges and lawyers in the country districts had not then the opportunity of consulting the great number and variety of reports, digests and text books upon almost every legal topic to which we now have more convenient access.

“But Judge Ruddick possessed the kind and degree of legal learning, the splendid judicial endowment and faculty which enabled him to very successfully perform all of the duties of the judge under the conditions as they existed.

“When he became judge he was still a young man, so far as life is measured in years, and strong, active and vigorous physically and mentally, but quite mature in legal knowledge and judgment. His mind was then well trained and his judgment well disciplined in all of the fundamental principals of the law and equity.

“Long, active, ardent study of the great text-book writers and the best of judicial decisions had well qualified him to enter upon the duties of the judicial office.

“He did not appear to be of the ‘deep-black letter learning’ type of a lawyer, nor affect to be a cyclopedia of cases; but he had evidently extracted from the great fountains of the civil law, the common law and equity jurisprudence of England and of our own country, the essential doctrines and principles of the law and the reasons upon which they are founded.

“These he held clearly and firmly in the grasp of his strong, well trained, well balanced legal mind, so that he was well prepared and at all times ready to make a practical application of them to causes which came before him for legal determination. He was thoroughly familiar with our statute laws and the decisions of this court and the decisions of courts of last resort in other states.

“He had not encumbered himself with an overload of the mere verbiage, in which the spirit of the law is clothed but he had enriched his splendid legal mind by gathering into it from the world’s great legal storehouses and temples, these gladsome lights of jurisprudence which blaze the way for the jurist through the numerous and ever varying facts of causes to be decided.

“He had called from the masses of laws, from the coarse materials which surround them, the bright, useful, necessary, enduring rules of right and justice, which rightly guide and guard the intercourse of men in their various relations and conserve the

lives, liberty and happiness of men, when applied in statutes and judgments of our courts. These he had assimilated and made his own, and enforced them with the skill of a trained jurist.

“But he knew well the vast extent and magnitude of the legal domain and the wonderful variety of legal questions and problems which grew therein, with all their difficulties and perplexities, and he knew also the limitations upon the highest order of legal talent, and also the fallability of the wisest of judges.

“So he always desired the members of the bar to aid him as fully as they could, by argument and citation of authorities, in order that he might, so far as possible, reach proper conclusions and render just and legal judgments.

“He had studied the best styles of legal argument and admired the clear, terse, statements of legal principles and of the real points determined in decisions of the courts. Many able lawyers made such arguments before him.

“But he recognized that many of us could not reach those high standards, and so with great and admirable patience and courtesy he was pleased to hear and give just consideration to such arguments as the different members of the bar could make.

“He was very efficient in the dispatch of business and pressed it forward as rapidly as could be done without prejudice to the rights of suitors.

“In the trial of cases he was ready and prompt, but not hasty in ruling upon questions of evidence. He deliberated sufficiently to comprehend the point involved and its merits and then decided clearly and positively. No one was left in doubt as to the reason and meaning of his rulings.

“Having paused long enough to see the situation correctly and to bring to bear upon it all the relevant knowledge he possessed, he acted thereon promptly and forcibly.

“He did not guess his way through but drew on his knowledge of the rules of evidence which, rightly applied, ensure regularity and certainty in the trial of the real issues involved in the cause.

“Curran, the great advocate, described the ceremony and effect of taking the oath in courts of justice by those who believed in God and a future state as ‘the external symbol of which man seals himself to the precept, and says “May God so help me as I swear the truth.” He is then attached to the divinity upon condition of telling the truth.’

"In the administration of oaths by Judge Ruddick there was far more than a mere cold formality. In his enunciation of the words 'So help you God' there was a reality and solemnity which seemed to impress the hearer with a sense of the sanctity of the obligation of an oath and of man's responsibility and duty to God and the future.

"His written instructions to juries, now lying in the vaults of the different court houses in his district, if printed in book form, would furnish lawyers and judges with models, most excellent in form, and highly instructive in substance, upon a great variety of legal subjects.

"But the written or printed words would only show a part of the effectiveness of Judge Ruddick's instructions. His enunciation, emphasis and inflection were those of a skilled elocutionist, and gave to the words a life and meaning much more than the ordinary reader would be likely to draw from them.

"His faculties of attention and memory were of the highest order. In jury trials, however lengthy they were, he carried in his mind the evidence so fully that he could at any stage of the trial recall and state it, and in long equity cases when the evidence, taken in the form of depositions, was read to him, his mind took possession of it not only in substance but in particulars. Able attorneys who examined the witnesses and had given it much study were often surprised to observe that, after hearing it read, the Judge would state it with precision, at any part about which attorneys disagreed.

"He had a high regard for the sanctity and majesty of the law and to the personal and property rights of men.

"He was prompt and decided in the administration of our criminal laws.

"They are generally more rigid than many people and some lawyers have understood them to be, and so at times some formed the impression that he was more than necessarily vigorous in their enforcement; but when fairly considered without bias or prejudice, his rulings and judgments were only the expressions of the law as it was, or as he believed it to be.

"They were the words and meaning of the law spoken by the judge. He knew well the legal rights of the citizen and the duty of the court to observe and guard the rights of defendants in criminal cases. He performed that duty.

"The definition of 'reasonable doubt' had bothered great



judges, and the forms of its expression were humorous and variable. But this court, in *State vs Ostrander*, 18th Iowa, stated it in terms which make its meaning as clear to judges, lawyers and jurors, as it can be made, for the purpose of practical administration of the law.

"This statement Judge Ruddick used fully in instructions to trial juries in all criminal cases. Hence in that definition we may find his ideas of duty and his purpose in the trials of criminal cases. He would not willingly have any one convicted, of whose guilt there was reasonable doubt. But when the proof of guilt was clear beyond reasonable doubt, as defined by this court, he desired conviction as a vindication of the law and for the repression of crime.

"In his application of legal theories and principles to causes before him for determination, they assumed the forms of life and became living realities. With the art of a master he made them very practical. The real force and power in legal doctrine is in their practical application to the affairs of men. In this Judge Ruddick was very capable, so his legal knowledge, with his great skill in applying it in practical administration, made him a great district judge.

"He would not brush away legal truths because they were venerable with age. Forms which have been wrought out and improved by the laborious thought and experience of successive generations of learned lawyers, and which give regularity and certainty to legal documents and court procedure, he respected. He kept fully up with the genuine spirit of progress of the times in which he lived and believed that laws and their administration ought to be in harmony with our present age and conditions. He was progressive in the proper sense of the term.

"In all the phases of equity jurisprudence which came before him he filled the office of chancellor with superior ability.

"During his long judicial term he heard and decided many important causes involving intricate and perplexing legal problems. Motions for new trial and equity causes were, with very few exceptions, decided by him before the close of the term at which the causes were tried. Under his administration the 'law's delays' were only such as were necessary in the rightful course of judicial procedure.

"District judges are sometimes judged by reference to the celebrity of the causes decided by them and by the record of

reversals or affirmances in this court. If this is, at all, a proper standard of judgment, it does not occur to me as the best.

"From observance of the regular daily work of the court, we can make the best estimate of the qualifications of the judge. But compared with either of these standards, Judge Ruddick's qualifications were of the best. I cannot avoid the belief that the proper administration of the office of district judge requires the best of judicial talent.

"We have not and will not have within the profession, any whose qualifications are above the demands of the office of judge of the district court. Judge Ruddick had a reserve of legal knowledge and power still beyond all demands that had been made upon it. His ability was never tried to the utmost; every draft upon it was honored and a reserve left.

"Among a number of great lawyers or judges it is difficult, and perhaps impossible to correctly mark their relative abilities.

"If it can be done at all, in order to do so, one will need the faculty of comparison and discrimination and of analytical judgment equal to that of Plutarch or Dr. Johnson.

"Iowa has had many distinguished judges of its district court. I could not, even if it were proper, on such an occasion, pretend to draw parallels or contrasts between them, or determine their relative merits; but I think I may, without any extravagance of expression, say that many of them were great judges, and that Judge Ruddick will be remembered as one very prominent among them.

"Aside from his legal qualifications he was familiar with the best of our literature, both in its serious and humorous branches.

"Serious and dignified in all that pertained to duty, he saw and enjoyed the peculiarities, oddities, wit and humor of lawyers, witnesses and parties, so often exhibited in proceedings in court. If the joke was aimed at himself, he was very ready and adroit in turning its point in other directions, but if it reached himself, he still enjoyed it.

"At the close of his judicial career, he possessed the knowledge which long study and experience, aided by helpful work of the bar, through many years, must give, while physically and mentally he retained the freshness and vigor of middle age.

"He filled the psalmist's measure of life. The heads and hearts of the many members of the bar who practiced in his court and of his many acquaintances and friends in the state, join us in our tribute of respect to his memory."

## CHAPTER XVI.

### REMINISCENCES OF PIONEERS.

CONTRAST BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT—LOCALS OF 1860—  
INDIAN TALK—A SETTLER'S EXPERIENCE—EARLY DAYS IN CERRO  
GORDO—A CASE OF HORSE STEALING.

In this chapter are given the personal experiences of some of the pioneers of Cerro Gordo county. These articles are written or related by the pioneers, and when written, the compiler has in no case attempted to change the style of the writer, it being the design to show the peculiarity of the writer as well as to record the facts narrated. The expressions of an individual in writing, show his character and peculiarities as much as do features when painted on canvas, or, printed from steel or stone. These reminiscences are interesting and well worthy of perusal.

#### THE CONTRAST.

*By Hon. M. P. Rosecrans.*

"We found the country a wild and uncultivated wilderness, but a little more than a half century ago. The prairies were covered with buffalo, elk and deer; the timber and bushy portion held the wild bear, panther and lynx. The lake was covered with wild fowl such as swans, geese, pelicans and ducks, while its clear placid water was full of pickerel, bass and many other kinds of the finny tribe. In fact this was a hunter's paradise. The wild and uncultivated savage, with his canoe on the water, in the moonlight glided from shore to shore, and whispered into the ear of some Indian maiden the tale of his burning passion—how he would take her to be the keeper of his humble wigwam, and let her raise the corn for him, cook his buffalo meat and venison, and do for him all his drudgery, while he, her lord, would smoke his pipe in the council of the braves, and there boast of his warlike deeds.

“Such, we say, was the state of the country, at a time within the memory of our men and women not much past middle life. There were no farms, no mills, no schools, no churches, no roads, no bridges, no comfortable dwellings, no mails, no postoffices, no printing presses, no shops, no machinery. The settler lived in a humble cabin, without floor in many cases. Corn was pounded in wooden mortars, and wild meat with this was their only food. Winters were cold, snows deep, and the communication in many instances cut off.



SUNSET ON CLEAR LAKE.

“Now note the change! The lake is still there, its bright and silvery water at sunset and sunrise reflecting the rays of light cast upon its surface; over it the steamer glides in stately pride, her decks adorned with the beauty and fashion of the southern and eastern cities, as well as the beauty and fashion of our own vicinity, while all over its surface may be seen the flutter of the white sail, as the boat to which it is attached scuds before the wind, bearing the white and civilized lover, who whispers in the ear of his fair one the tale of the home he has prepared, where are books, pictures, music; where flowers bloom, and where he desires to carry his lovely and attentive listener. The shore of the lake is still here, lined with pebbles and lashed by the waves as of old, but minus many a carnelian and moss agate, taken from thence to be placed in the cabinet of the geological student, or under the



hands and skill of the workman, to adorn the breast or the finger of beauty and fashion while moving in the gas light in the mansion of wealth and refinement. The timber that lines its banks still looms up darkly to the eye of the traveler as he crosses our broad and fertile prairies, save what has been destroyed by our settlers in making their improvements, but the bear that once roamed in its cool shades have all gone. The scream of the panther no more frightens the settler. This scream has been superseded by the shrill whistle of the locomotive or engine in the mills. The lynx and wild cat have been superseded by the Maltese or domestic cat. In the place of the wolf may be heard the barking of the mastiff and spaniel. Buffalo, deer and elk are no more seen on our prairies, but their places are filled by lowing herds of cattle, by horses and mules, while at sunset may be heard the bleat of sheep mingled with the merry song of the husbandman. The wild grass of the prairie has been, in a great measure, changed to the fragrant clover and waving fields of golden grain. The rough uncultured backwoodsman, clothed in his humble garb of skins, has been changed into the cultivated and refined gentleman of leisure who sports his gold watch and rings. His old coonskin cap is replaced by a hat of the latest style, shining and glistening in the sun. Where water only was drank, now may be found the costliest wines and most delicious beverages.

“We say all this change has taken place and more than this. We now have roads and bridges, schools and school houses, societies and church edifices, railroads and telegraphs, taxes and tax collectors. The old cabin of the settler has long since been torn down and superseded by the palatial mansion. Where once all was rough and uncouth, now may be seen beauty and refinement, harmony and order.”

#### LOCALS OF 1860.

*By George E. Frost.*

In an article addressed to the old settlers of Cerro Gordo county, in the *Clear Lake Record*, Mr. Frost says:

“Through the kindness of John M. Brainard, of Boone, this state, we have received Volume 1 of the *Clear Lake Independent*, the first paper published in Clear Lake.

“No. 1 is dated February 10, 1860. It is a six-column folio,

and was published by Brainard and Noyes. The card and advertisement columns report as follows: County judge, George Vermilya; district clerk, E. D. Huntley; recorder and treasurer, H. G. Parker; sheriff, John L. McMillen; county surveyor, J. H. Ambrose; county superintendent, John M. Brainard. At Clear Lake Edwin Nichols was postmaster, W. C. Stanbery, attorney at law, and Marcus Tuttle, P. T. Sturgis, James Goodwin and Brainard and Noyes were land agents. Marcus Tuttle was also in the livery and lumber business, and kept in stock all kinds of native lumber. P. T. Sturgis was dealer in general merchandise. Goodwin and Howard were carpenters and builders, and R. O. Serrine run the blacksmith shop. A report on county finances from the organization of the county to January 1, 1860, shows county warrants issued for \$19,556.98, and unpaid warrants outstanding \$5,754.47.

"No. 2 gives an itemized statement of county receipts and expenses from the organization of the county in August, 1855, to December 31, 1859, by J. S. Church, retiring county judge, which is a very complete statement of county affairs.

"The paper dated March 2nd notes the building of a regular 'downeast' oxcart by Willard Dort, which is probably the first vehicle on wheels ever made in the county. The same paper also notes the burning of a little school house at Mason City.

"In the next issue A. B. Tuttle and Buren R. Sherman advertise as attorneys at law, and Rosecrans and Stanbery, attorneys publish four legal notices. Charles Johnson also advertises a mail and express route between Cedar Lake and Cedar Falls—says he will be here every Friday prompt.

"March 16th says farmers are all sowing wheat. Judge Rosecrans, of Upper Grove, had finished seeding. James Dickirson was building a new barn in connection with the Dickirson House.

"March 23rd reports 1,500 pounds of fish caught at the outlet Monday night.

"April 20th announces a mail route opened from Clear Lake to Irvington, Kossuth county, with Joseph Hewitt, contractor, and running once a week.

"June 1st reports the opening of the first district court of Hancock county with Hon. John Porter for judge, C. J. Pritchard, clerk, Daniel D. Chase, prosecuting attorney, and Huff, of Hardin county, Col. Woods, of Burlington, W. C. Stanbery, of Cerro

Gordo, and M. P. Rosecrans, of Hancock county, were the attorneys present. At the same term C. J. Pritchard and Harvey Brockway were admitted to the bar as attorneys. Court was also held in Winnebago county the following Monday, and H. B. Gray was admitted as an attorney, but there were no trials in either county, and but one day's court in each.

"Martin Bumgardner advertises a large stock of general merchandise at Forest City,—the first store there, in the same issue.

"In the issue of June 22nd, the United States government advertises for bids on thirteen mail routes in this vicinity. The public installation of officers of Benevolence Lodge, A. F. & A. M., is mentioned in this paper, and there is also a long article on the Comanche tornado in the eastern part of the state by which 100 persons were killed.

"In the issue of June 29th Marcus Tuttle and J. C. Crowles have formed a partnership, and have bought out P. T. Sturgis, at Clear Lake and Mason City, and will operate a general store at each place.

"July 6th reports Fourth of July celebration, dance and camp-meeting exercises, and all parties happy.

"July 20th announces the return of J. S. Saxby from Kansas with his family, and the wheat harvest never better, and H. G. Parker and D. E. Coon as having a lively fight over the tax lists.

"On August 3rd Mr. Chilson threshed 107 bushels of wheat, raised from five and one half bushels of seed on James Dickirson's farm of three and a half acres.

"August 7th Col. Woods (old Timber) arrested for stealing a dog, and the Hancock county *Sentinel* started by W. E. Tucker and C. W. Tobin at Ellington. The same paper contains the tax list of Hancock county, which filled six pages of four double columns each, also the list of Cerro Gordo county, which filled five pages of six columns each. At that time the water was so low in Lime creek that Randall's mill could not run and there was lots of wheat but no flour. At that time two threshing machines were kept busy in this county. The names of the committee appointed for the county fair also appeared in this issue.

"September 14th W. P. Stanbery, C. D. Pritchard and H. B. Gray are discussing politics. A. B. Tuttle has ripe melons and John L. McMillen has the best corn in the county. The following notice appears in the same number: Married—On the 11th inst., at the Dickirson House, in Clear Lake, by Peter Wood Esq.,

Mr. Robert O. Sirrine to Miss Martha Denslow, both of Clear Lake. (That was Rob. and he is married still.)

"September 28th Tuttle and Crowles sell out their store to Brainard and Noyes. In the statement of county finances, from January 1st to July 1st, the salaries of the county officers unpaid for six months, are as follows:

County Superintendent -----	\$68.64
County Clerk -----	75.00
County Judge -----	75.00
County Surveyor -----	6.00
County Sheriff -----	18.00
County Treasurer and Recorder -----	105.75

"October 19th the town school, with Mrs. Gardener as teacher, closed with a picnic. A slim report of the county fair from which we judge that the fair was not half so large as the premium list, and a new postoffice established at Linn Grove, now Rockwell.

"November 2nd contains the death of Rev. Elisha Pattee, aged seventy years. (Mr. Pattee was one of the pioneer Methodist ministers in Iowa, and probably preached the first sermon in this county.)

"November 16th contains election returns from which it appears that Cerro Gordo county cast 220 votes, of which 121 were Republican and 69 Democratic.

"January 4, 1861.—Thermometer twelve degrees below, and the printing office devil froze up. First board of supervisors organized with J. M. Hunt, of Falls, E. Randall, of Mason, J. P. Gardener, of Lake, A. C. Owen, of Owen, and J. J. Rogers, of Linn township, members. Paper contains account of the secession of South Carolina.

"January 18th H. G. Parker has bought press and material for a new paper at Mason City, to be called the *Republican*, J. H. Ayelsworth to be editor.

"February 1st railroad was built to Waterloo. Vol. 1 of the Clear Lake *Independent* closed, and the paper suspends publication for the editors to rest. James Turner, the mail carrier, was caught out in a blizzard and was badly frozen, and the first number of the Cerro Gordo *Republican* is out.

"The above is a brief review of the locals of Clear Lake in 1860, and when we remember that in January, 1861, there were



but twenty-nine families in the west half of Cerro Gordo county, there was but little to fill a newspaper with. The entire advertising for the year outside of tax lists was less than \$300, with subscription next to nothing, but still they did more work and set more type each week than the *Record* and *Mirror* together, but that was before the days of 'patents' and 'plates' and every word was set up each week. Altogether the work was creditable for the times. The files will stay here hereafter."

#### INDIAN TALK.

*By Will. Ed. Tucker.*

It is not our purpose in this article to dilate much upon the part which the "noble red man" took in our early history, preferring to deal with subjects which are not surrounded with such a halo of doubt and uncertainty. In that early day Clear Lake seemed to be a favorite hunting place for the Indians, and naturally enough, the name of James Hewitt is connected with our earliest account of them. The significance of his name seems to have immediately struck them, for they at once re-christened him Nock-a-Shooke, which is Winnebago for *hew it*. Having had some experience with the Winnebagoes in Clayton county and elsewhere, Mr. Hewitt was prepared to deal with "Lo" as a trader and talkist. Large numbers of that tribe, under the leadership of some of the braves, were camped much of the time near the residence of Nock-a-shook, at Clear Lake, hunting by day, and making night hideous with "music" and dancing. During the winters of 1855-56, '56-7 the supply of "pagainena" was obtained from some enterprising dealers at Mason City. The name of this beverage is derived from two Winnebago words, "pageda," fire, and "nena," water, (fire-water), which had the most remarkable effect on ye noble red man of the forest. They would often fall to beating their squaws, till the "better halves" were compelled to seek refuge among the trees, with the whites and elsewhere, until the frenzy had passed away from their lords. At the breaking up of winter, with new canoes just dug out, they would usually start with their "plunder" at the head of the West Fork of the Cedar, just a little south of the lake, and follow that stream to its con-

fluence with the Cedar, catching otter, beaver and smaller fur. Arriving at the Cedar, the fur season over, they sold furs and canoes, then returned overland, the same dirty, destitute, vagabond, noble "Injuns" they ever were.

*By Timothy H. Parker.*

I left Wabash township, Jay county, Indiana, September 10, 1855, with two teams, to come to Iowa. We were five weeks getting ten miles west of Dubuque. It got very cold and as I had no claim picked out in Cerro Gordo county, the place toward which I was making, I concluded to leave my family and go ahead alone to find a location. So I rented a house, got my family comfortably domiciled and came to Mason City, purchasing the farm on which I now live (1883). I then returned to my family, and in the following April started to my land in Cerro Gordo county. When I got to the Shell Rock river, the ice was running and we could not cross with the wagons, so I got Enoch Wiltfong to help swim the horses over and take the family, beds, stoves, etc., across, giving him one dollar for his trouble. After paying Wiltfong I had thirty cents left to begin the summer. The next winter I went to Cedar Rapids and hauled a load of mill irons for George Brentner, receiving for the job seventy dollars, with which I bought stuff that was called flour, at five dollars per hundred. We had bad luck with the first two crops of corn we planted, as the early frosts killed both, and we had almost nothing to feed our cattle. We had six cows, however, that we had brought with us, and these helped us weather the storm all right. One day, in 1856, we were visited by an Indian squaw, who wanted to trade us her papoose for a bushel of potatoes, because the little thing was sick, and she didn't want to take care of it; but we didn't care about dealing in that kind of goods, and so didn't make a trade. When we first came to Cerro Gordo we didn't have very good religious privileges, and it was very seldom that we got the benefit of hearing a good sermon. I remember the first Sabbath I spent in this county. I went to Mason City to see if there was any meeting; all I found was a Sunday school, and there was but little satisfaction in that, as there wasn't a man to open the school by prayer.

## EARLY DAYS IN CERRO GORDO COUNTY.

*By Enoch Wiltfong.*

The writer of this article was born in St. Joseph county, Indiana, near South Bend, February 25, 1834. Some time afterward I was taken by my father, Elijah Wiltfong, into Laporte county, Indiana, some nine or ten miles east of Laporte, which was then a small town, and there lived until the year 1853. Then with my father and family I moved to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. I driving an ox team, my father another, each of us having two yoke of oxen. My mother drove a team of horses before a light spring wagon. Having arrived near our journey's end, as we approached the east bank of the Shell Rock river, which was very steep but short, just at the falls of the river, we locked three wheels of my wagon, I being in the lead and no road. All things being ready, I started down the bank and over went my wagon, nearly endwise, spilling my little brother George, who was then quite a little boy, into the water, giving him quite a wetting, as we had to get him out from under some bed clothing. Then we got the wagon on its wheels again. All hands then crossed over the river without any further trouble and drove about fifty rods and pitched our tent for the night. This was about the 3rd day of August, 1853. Our number in family then was seven. In a few days my brother Hiram, who was then about seventeen years old, joined us. Then we went to work cutting and hauling logs for a house, splitting shakes for roofing and hewing out puncheons for a floor. We built it on a nice little hill from under the side of which flowed a beautiful spring of nice cold water. We rolled up a pile of logs, then covered it with limestone rock, then set it on fire and burned it up. There is where we got our lime for building a chimney and plastering the cracks between the logs, so that our house might be warm. Then we put up about forty tons of wild grass hay as we thought, for we had fifteen or twenty animals to feed. Our nearest neighbor then was six or seven miles away, at what was called Rock Grove, down the river, and on Lime creek west of us.

Winter came on, then railsplitting was the order of the day, with now and then a day put in hunting for deer. We would sometimes get a nice fat one too. My father killed a nice fat young black bear, and one big fat elk also. This happened after

we had lived there a year or two. The first winter and spring we got rails enough to fence in forty acres of land with seven-rail fence. We hired a Mr. Joseph Henry to do some rail splitting. We lived very well for a new country. We had to go some thirty miles for provisions and mail matter, to Chickasaw in Chickasaw county. Then Charles City was located in Floyd county.

The first school house was built at Rock Grove, seven miles away, where I went two months to school to a lady teacher by the name of Sarah Griffith. A nice young lady she was too. By the way, I boarded with a family by the name of Workman, where there were two more nice young ladies, and I became very much interested in the younger one. But! But what? Well, she sacked me. Our school house was logs of wood rolled up in a square and calked with mud. Our nearest mill was in Chickasaw in Chickasaw county. Our school house was our place for preaching and for Sunday school. In 1854 the Indians gave the settlers quite a scare, but did no damage worth mentioning that I remember.

In 1855, I think it was, that father laid out the town of Shell Rock Falls, just east of our house on the opposite side of the river. I carried the poll books to Mason City for the first election ever held in Cerro Gordo county. Messrs. Robert Campbell, J. B. Long and myself were the judges. Henry Van Patten and J. B. Byford were the clerks. Mason City had some half dozen or more log cabins, if memory serves me right. There was one case of freezing to death that comes to my mind. That was an old man and his wife that lived in Worth county. They were brought to our house by my father and both buried in a big box, as they were frozen in such a crooked way that we could not get them in the coffins, although Mr. Richard Morris had one made for each. We buried them in the timber south of our house.

Perhaps some of the old settlers of Mason City will remember how Reuben and David Williams tending Mr. Green's cattle on the outlet of Clear Lake, got lost in a snow storm, and had to stay out all night. Early next morning they were found just west of Mason City, being so badly frozen that they were made cripples for life. The weather has been more severe in later years than it was during my absence, I think, as I have heard of more deaths by freezing than before.

I am not certain that there was any railroad west of the Mississippi river until 1858 or 1859. In 1861 the cars ran to Cedar Falls, Black Hawk county. Our market was then Cedar



Falls, some sixty miles distant, then the railroad terminus. I made one trip to McGregor's Landing with a load of wheat, and got sixty cents per bushel. That is about one hundred miles in an easterly direction from Shell Rock Falls. Charles City got to be something of a market in the '50s. It was laid out by the Messrs Tenney, if my memory serves me right, with a small store kept by a Mr. Shepherd. Mr. A. J. Glover was the first man to have a store in Shell Rock Falls; that was in 1855. He also had a portable sawmill, then afterward he put up a little flour mill with one small run of burrs. L. S. Eager bought A. J. Glover's store in 1856, and afterwards built a nice frame building for his goods, and put in a nice little stock himself in later years. A. J. Glover



HIGH SCHOOL, MASON CITY.

sold his mill property to a Mr. Markley, who afterwards sold it to my father, who enlarged the building. Then I learned a little about the milling business and ran the mill, one or the other, at different times, and finally I did a good deal of grinding; had customers come twenty miles or more for grinding, as our mill was the farthest west at that time of any in the county. The first bridge building that was done across the Shell Rock river was what was called an arch bridge. The Trevett Brothers were the build-

ers, I think. But it fell before being completed and broke the thigh of one of the workmen. The bridge was being built just below the mills at that time, which was in 1858 or 1859.

Thinking of cold winters in Iowa reminds me of a storm that J. M. Hunt and myself were caught in while on a trip from Shell Rock Falls, Cerro Gordo county, to Cedar Falls, Black Hawk county. As we were on our way home the storm was so severe that we drove our teams down a steep hill into a nice grove of timber well sheltered from the storm. There we remained for half the day or more, roasting and eating corn. Then in the evening we hitched up our teams and drove over the river and stopped for the night at Mrs. Gohene's and her son's, who was a young man. She had her right leg amputated between the ankle and knee. J. M. Hunt told them that one of his eyes froze shut—"so did one of the other mule's eyes freeze shut too." He made the remark I suppose, in that way for a joke, as he was driving a mule team.

In the year 1856, the neighbors built a small house and had several months of school taught in it. Then in 1860, I think it was, we built a pretty good school house just east of town on a nice little hill. There the winter of 1860-61 the school was taught by Walter Harriman, a young man who had partly decided to emigrate with me to the Pacific coast, but afterward declined. Then in the year 1862, I emigrated.

#### A CASE OF HORSE STEALING.

An interesting case of horse stealing came to light at Mason City in April, 1879, the particulars of which were about as follows: A few months previous to the time indicated, Samuel Maher, a promising young man, bought a small place on Lime creek north of Mason City, and seemed to settle down to comfortable living. There was nothing about the fellow that especially directed attention. He was well thought of by his neighbors, and seemed to have their confidence. Early in April he gave out that he was going to Kansas to spend the summer, and accordingly rented his place. On the evening of April 3, 1879, he came to Mason City and stopped over night, leaving orders to be called for the 6:20 train, Friday morning, on the Central of Iowa Railroad. He arose and started for Kansas. On Friday night the Farmers' Club of Lime Creek township met as usual at the Vinton school house.

The evening was a moonlight one and very pleasant. Among the attendants were Alden Sinkins and Will Sherman, who rode there on horse back. They hitched their horses in the grove and attended the exercises. At the close the bridles were found slipped and the horses gone. At first it was supposed to be a case of bad luck for the boys, who were booked to walk home; but on arriving home the horses were not found, and the conclusion was arrived at that they were stolen. The alarm was at once given, and C. B. Dike rallied his Anti-Horse Thief Company and started them in every direction. A net was woven around the law-breaker by telegraph. The trail of the horses was found leading towards Rhode's mill, but was lost. The pursuit was active all along the line during Saturday and Sunday. Early Monday morning Dike received a telegram from the sheriff at Albert Lea, Minnesota, that the horses were there and the thief in the lockup. Sheriff Schell and C. B. Dike at once went to that place to get the horses and bring the thief back provided he would come without a requisition. Imagine their astonishment when conducted into the presence of the thief, to find him none other than the veritable Sam Maher, he who started for Kansas on Friday morning. He refused to come back until extradited. As soon as necessary papers could be got out he was brought back to Mason City, and upon trial was sentenced to the penitentiary.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE GREAT BLIZZARD OF 1855.

DECEIVING WEATHER CONDITIONS ON MORNING OF BLIZZARD—RAPID APPROACH OF THE STORM—ITS TERRIBLE FURY—LOSSES IN LIFE AND PROPERTY—FREEZING OF LONG AND MEYERS—THE TRAGEDY OF JOHN VAN AIKEN—THE FREEZING OF ABBOTT AND WICKS—THE BLIZZARD OF 1872—SAVED BY A HAIR'S BREADTH—A PIONEER'S PRECAUTION—A WINTER NIGHT'S EXPERIENCE—CASE OF MATTHEW HUMPHREY—ICE CRUST OF 1856—DESTRUCTION OF THE BIG GAME—FREEZING OF MR. AND MRS. RALPH—THE FLOOD OF 1878.

The morning of December 1, 1855, gave no indication that it was heralding a day of suffering, disaster and death to be long remembered throughout the middle northwest; a day to survive in oral tradition and written annals long after the people then living had slept with their fathers. The sky was blue and cloudless and the sun rose clear and bright. The sunlight sparkled over the crisp, snow-covered prairies, and sent a million scintillations from the minute ice prisms of the cold hoar frost that hung from every twig or weed stalk; or sparkled like countless diamonds on the pure white surface of the winter snow that covered the endless prairies. The air was quite cold and in it floated tiny ice needles, at certain angles reflecting the bright sunbeams as do the wings of insects flitting in the summer sun. Low down on the western horizon there was visible a haze so faint as to scarcely mar the coloring of the deep azure of the western sky, and the calm was so profound that there was not sufficient breeze to stir the least white star of snow. So deceptive were the conditions that the oldest settlers had no dream of coming woe.

About 10 o'clock, however, the wind began to rise in little cats paws which would continue for a few moments and then die down. By half past eleven the sky was overcast, and the snow had commenced to fall, and by two o'clock it was coming down fast. The wind was constantly increasing, and by 3 o'clock it



was blowing great guns. Matters began to look decidedly serious. By 4 o'clock "the infantry of the snow and the cavalry of the wild blast," riding on the wings of an Arctic hurricane, were sweeping the plains with the destructive ferocity of the scourge of God. The "faint haze" that had been barely discernible low down on the western horizon had been the harbinger of the worst blizzard in history.

For three days the storm continued with unabated fury. For three days and nights it roared and shrieked and bellowed, subsiding for an instant only to gather greater fury and to renew the attack, as though with demoniac intelligence it would rend everything which hindered. Three days and nights of howling, seething wind and snow; searching its way into every crevice, threatening to unroof the shake-covered log cabins and rocking the balloon frame houses of boards like reeds in a hurricane, threatening destruction; filling up ravines and piling up great white mounds around eddying corners; covering up hay and straw stacks, wood piles and out buildings, and in some cases story and a half dwellings. Three days with the mercury constantly falling until it finally registered thirty degrees below zero; three days of suffering, disaster and death.

And then came the calm and the counting of the cost in life and property. In many cases people had to tunnel through the snow to get from their homes; barns, stables, pig pens and hen houses had in many cases to be tunnelled into. In many cases stock was found buried in the snow on the leeward side of straw stacks. Much live stock was frozen to death, and the property loss which the settlers were ill prepared to sustain, was considerable in actual amount and enormous if reckoned in percentage of the total value of the live stock owned by, and compared with the scanty resources of the settlers, for the loss of a brood sow, a cow, an ox or a horse was almost irreparable. But the greatest loss was that of human life which in the unknown aggregate in the middle northwest, must have been great. To that ghastly unknown aggregate, whatever its number, of victims of the blizzard's maw, Cerro Gordo county contributed its share.

Two residents of Forest City, Winnebago county, old settlers both, the one Alexander Long, a man of some note, and his companion Meyers, perished in that storm, in Cerro Gordo county. The two men started on that fateful December morning, to drive to Upper Grove, Hancock county, a distance of twenty-seven miles

across the unsettled prairie. They made good preparations, had a strong team, a low sled filled with straw and buffalo robes, extra pairs of stockings so that in emergency boots might be discarded and double woolen substituted. The sun was bright and the air though cold was exhilarating as they drove away in the morning toward the southwest. Neither men nor horses ever came back and no man lived to tell the story of the disaster. From what was discovered afterward, it appears that the storm broke on the outfit before half of the journey was completed, and that the team turned their heads from the storm, and drifted with it. One of the searching parties, that went out in search of the men after the storm, found the overturned sled west of the Clear Lake timber, and not far from the sheltering trees. The bodies were found later. The two men were on their hands and knees, a few rods apart, frozen stiff. They had taken off their boots and put on their extra pair of woolen stockings, and when death overtook them were apparently trying to make their way to the Clear Lake timber on foot. The fact that the sled was found overturned led to the belief that the two men after exchanging their boots for the woolen socks, had got out of the sled to walk to keep from freezing, and that the team had taken fright at something and ran away, overturning the sled in their fright and finally freeing themselves from it. The horses were found long afterward, many miles to the southward, both dead, probably from exhaustion and the cold.

#### TRAGEDY OF JOHN VAN AIKEN.

Among those who went blindly to their fate on that eventful December 1st, 1855, was John Van Aiken. According to H. G. Parker he had started to drive to Lime Creek and was overtaken by the relentless blizzard. Just where he was when the storm overtook him will never be known, but it must have been while he was still some distance from Lone Rock, in what is now Grant township, as it was not until he had reached that point that he decided to unhitch his horses, abandon his sled and make a desperate attempt to ride to safety. Evidently he soon discovered that he could not control his horses and, whether willing to do so or not, must drift with the storm. Of the incidents of his lonely ride to doom we can know nothing.

After the storm had subsided, and some days had elapsed bringing no return and no tidings of John Van Aiken to the haunts

of living men, inquiries began to be made concerning his fate. As days passed and accumulated into weeks and still no tidings of the man who was and then was not, the pioneers settled down to the conviction that John Van Aiken would no more return to the parts of living men, and waited for the white, cruel waste to give up its dead.

The month of December dragged its length of days into that great cemetery of time, the past, which comes not back again; the tales of disaster, suffering and havoc of the great storm had passed from settlement to settlement, from cabin to cabin; Christmas, with its frontier festivities had come and gone and the memory of John Van Aiken and his uncertain fate had almost ceased to be the subject of thought or conversation.

And then, without a thought of the missing John Van Aiken, but with the sole intent to stock his larder with fresh meat, Richard Cassady of the Clear Lake settlement sallied forth on a winter's day to hunt elk. He bent his steps toward East Grove, about two miles east of the lake. When within a short distance of the grove, his attention was attracted to a pack of wolves intent on some object in their midst. Curious to know what the wolves were fighting and quarreling over, Cassady approached and drove them away. What he saw was both surprising and ghastly. It was a man's arm protruding from the snow, with the sleeve torn completely away, and the skin and flesh torn to shreds. Removing the snow the stark body of the lost John Van Aiken lay revealed; the cruel, white waste had given up its dead.

When he unhitched his horses from the sleigh near Lone Rock in Grant township, he had evidently had it in his mind to ride to the settlement on Clear Lake. As the wind was in the northwest, and as Clear Lake settlement was about due south, to reach the settlement he would be obliged to hold his horses head a little to the wind. This he was probably able, with some difficulty, to do at first, but the increasing severity of the storm together with the increasing effect of the cold on his own strength of mind and body, must have soon combined to give the horse free rein. With a free rein the horses would turn their heads directly away from the wind and drift with the storm. Had Van Aiken been able to hold his horses to the course he originally started on he would have reached the Clear Lake settlement in safety, as he must have been still alive when he finally fell from his horse near the grove, east of Clear Lake. His body was taken to the house of Joseph Hart,

where an inquest was held by John L. McMillen, coroner pro tem. His horses were found when the cold white desert gave up its dead in the spring. They were miles to the south, where they were frozen to death.

#### TWO MEN FROZEN.

A. J. Abbott came to the county in June, 1855, and located on section 32, and commenced making the necessary improvements preparatory for sending for his family, who were still in Vermont. Abbott and Charles Wicks boarded with Abiel Pierce. On December 22, 1855, Abbott and Wicks went to what is now Geneseo township, with three yoke of oxen, to get some logs with which to build a stable. When they left in the morning the atmosphere was mild, and a pleasant day was expected; but while they were in the timber, a violent storm came up, and it is supposed they left the timber for home about three or four o'clock in the afternoon, and at one time must have been within two miles of home. But they evidently had become lost and bewildered, probably on account of the wind having changed its course. It seems, however, that the animal instinct taught the oxen to even face the piercing blast and make directly for home, while the men urged them in an opposite direction, against an almost uncontrollable determination upon their part to go home. At last they abandoned the cattle and started from the sled on foot, taking a southeastern course. Mr. Wicks being the weaker of the two soon became exhausted. He was no doubt assisted, and perhaps dragged, along for some distance by his comrade, Abbott, but at last had to succumb. Mr. Abbott marked the fatal spot by sticking his ox goad in the deep snow drift, and hanging an old sack, in which was left the remains of their lunch, upon it, which could be seen at quite a distance. Abbott then proceeded alone until he became exhausted. No doubt when he lay down, he fully realized that he was about to sleep the long sleep of death, as he straightened himself out upon the snow and folded his arms in order, over his breast, as if conscious of the awful fact that a terrible fate had overtaken him. He was found in this position by Alonzo Wilson about three days afterward. From facts soon ascertained, it was found he had wandered fourteen miles from home, and at one time was within 200 yards of a turnpike road, which, had he been fortunate enough to have gained, would have guided him homeward. The following



day the storm abated about 10 o'clock, a. m., when Owen, Wilson and Pierce started out in search of their friends, Abbott and Wicks, and by following the trail of the sled, left perceptible in the snow, they finally found the sled. This was just at sundown the first day of the search. This proved to them beyond doubt that the men had been lost and turned the oxen loose. They resumed their hunt the day following and succeeded in finding Wicks, who was sitting with his face upon his arms, leaning against a bunch of frozen weeds and grass. The sight as described by Mr. Wilson, who was the first to discover him, was terrible, indeed, as he evidently had been bitterly weeping, and his face had been frozen in a manner that put this beyond doubt in the minds of those who saw the frozen form. His body was taken to his boarding place, the home of Mr. Pierce. It was with the utmost exertion that his limbs could be straightened sufficiently to get his form into a coffin. On the third day after the storm, the neighborhood again went forth to find Abbott, and after following dim traces for weary hours, they found him as before described, lying upon his back, with his frozen features but slightly distorted. Alonzo Wilson went to Mason City in search of coffins for the two unfortunates, and owing to a scarcity of lumber was obliged to take part of a store counter, furnished by Judge Long, out of which to make them, and, with the help of a carpenter, the rude coffins were finally made, and the remains of the poor unfortunates were buried at Owens Grove.

Of Charles Wicks but little was known, save that he was a native of Massachusetts, and a single man who made his home at Mr. Pierce's.

Andrew Jackson Abbott was from New Hampshire. He was born in October, 1825, and remained with his parents on a farm until nineteen years of age, at which time he commenced working at the trade of stone cutter, following it for several years in the New England states. He was married January 3, 1854, in Rutland, Vermont, to Louisa C. Marsh, a native of the same county and state. For a time he was overseer of the stone works on the Wabash railroad in Indiana. In March, 1855, he took his wife and daughter back to Vermont, remaining there a short time himself, then returned to the west, coming to Iowa in search of work, meeting the sad fate recorded.

## THE STORM OF 1872.

A winter storm of almost equal severity to the fateful blizzard of 1855 swept the country in 1872. The cold was not quite so intense as in the former disastrous blizzard, and the country was much more thickly settled, so that the danger of getting hopelessly lost was much less, while the chance for shelter and rescue were much greater in 1872 than in 1855-6. But even as late as 1872 there was danger and suffering for those caught in the blinding swirl of the white terror of the prairies in the open, unfenced four or five mile stretches which in many cases intervened between the scattering farm houses.

In the winter of 1872, Frank Lucas, who resided on a farm about five miles west of Rockwell, drove with his sled and ox team, some five or six miles distant to the southeast, near the Lyman farm, after a load of wood. Securing his wood he started to drive home soon after noon of the short winter day. He had got as far on his homeward journey as the old Nathaniel Dillingham place, west of the Jack Kew farm, when the blizzard struck him.

It was about four o'clock when the storm broke upon him, and already getting dark. Lucas was only a mile or two from home, and he tried to force his oxen to face the blizzard on the homeward road. In spite of all his efforts his oxen turned and went with the storm. Lucas concluded it the safer course to stay with the team, and did so, accompanied by his faithful dog. The oxen drifted with the storm for something over a mile in a southeasterly direction, and finally found shelter behind a dense clump of willows on the bank of the creek near the McMullen grove.

Lucas staid with his team and dog all that terrible night, but as soon as it was light the next morning, realizing that he must soon succumb to the cold if he did not find food and fire and shelter in a very few hours, he sallied forth from his arctic shelter of the willows, leaving his oxen and the body of his dog, who had literally frozen to death during the night, to their fate. He was not lost, for he knew the points of the compass and knew where he was. The difficulty lay in facing the freezing blizzard when outside the shelter of the willows and keeping the points of the compass when out in the practically opaque, rushing cloud of snow. He started south, following a wire fence along the west line of Roger's place until he reached William Major's corn field. Through the corn field he followed a sled track, or private winter road, thinking it

would lead to Major's house, (at this writing, 1910, occupied by Mike McCarthy). In this he was not disappointed, for he soon came to Major's outbuildings and discovered a smoke rising from a huge snow drift.

At 9 o'clock Major heard a sound as though some one were stamping on the roof of his log house. Digging out so he could obtain a view he beheld Lucas, half frozen but still alive, on his roof. The house had been completely drifted over during the night. For three days Lucas was imprisoned in Major's house by the unabated fury of the blizzard. At the end of that period he and Major went in search of the oxen. They found them still behind the willows, alive and apparently fairly comfortable.

#### SAVED BY A HAIR'S BREADTH.

During the '50s and even later there were neither fences nor landmarks out on the open prairies, as the early pioneers settled in the groves and in the timber along the streams, and for the hunter or settler to be caught on the open prairie in a blinding blizzard, with no compass, was, aside from luck and chance, to be hopelessly lost.

W. B. Stillson relates an adventure of his own which illustrates the desperate hazzard which beset the wayfarer caught in the blizzard, even close to home. He had one day started to ride on horseback to visit a sick neighbor. When he started the snow was falling but not heavily, and there was no wind. When he had ridden some little distance on his way, probably no more than a mile or two, a blizzard broke upon him. Stillson was far above the average settler in intelligence and was cool headed. He took note of the direction of the wind and knew that by keeping his direction guided by the wind he could not get lost, even though the storm blotted out all landmarks. The storm did completely shut off all vision at a distance of a few yards. But this was not the worst feature of the situation. The worst feature was that the rushing snow along the surface of the ground, or between his eyes and the ground, made the whole world seem to be slipping from under him. The dizzying rush of the earth under his feet soon took from him all idea of the points of the compass. He was soon so bewildered that he thought the wind had changed its course and must be blowing from a different direction from what it had been a few moments before. In short, he was hopelessly lost in broad day

light, within a mile or two from home and on a road he knew as well as he knew the way from his house to his barn. His only resource was to give his horse free rein in the hope that the animal's instinct might save him. He also hoped that in case the horse simply drifted with the storm he would encounter his own fence which he knew must be in their path if they were actually drifting to the southeast. This field extended from Stillson's house in a direction parallel with the road he knew he had left, and was south of the road. After he and the horse had drifted some distance and he was beginning to fear he had missed the fence, he happened to discern through the rushing, white cloud the faint appearance of some dark object a little way to his left. Forcing his horse in that direction, he soon came to a fence. He knew it must be his own, as his was the only fence in the neighborhood. But so bewildered had he become that he did not know which way to turn. It required some time and considerable calculation to fix in his mind the proper course. This he finally did and after a short ride reached home. But suppose he had been a few rods farther on his journey when the storm struck him, or suppose he had, as he might easily have done, missed seeing the fence? Only this, there would have been another victim of the terrible blizzard such as was John Van Aiken.

#### A PIONEER'S PRECAUTION.

That precautionary measures might have been taken and many lives saved, is easily illustrated: A weekly mail was carried from Clear Lake to "Upper Grove" in Hancock county, across an open prairie a distance of twenty miles; thence to Algona, crossing a still wider stretch of open prairie, in all a distance of sixty miles. The mail carrier was Joseph Hewitt, the Daniel Boone of the Clear Lake settlement. In preparation for his winter journeyings, it was his custom to set up, before the winter set in, oak poles at intervals of about three hundred yards, their leafy tops being retained. These were his guides when the ferocious winter storm howled across his path. His mail cart was canvass covered on all sides, with small portholes for the lines, sockets for candles on the wooden supports, and plenty of fatty provisions. Thus prepared, if his team gave out after nightfall, it was sheltered on the lee side of the canvass; he lit his candles for light and warmth, ate his provisions, and wrapped in buffalo robes stood out the siege till



morning. The settlers could at least have marked their highways with poles topped with leaves, placed a few rods apart. There is no record of their having done so, yet such a simple precaution would have saved many lives.

#### A WINTER NIGHT'S EXPERIENCE.

In the winter of 1856-7, two sons of Ira Williams, Reuben and David, aged twenty and fourteen years, respectively, went over to Horace Green's, a neighbor's, to water his cattle. They left home about 10 a. m., and owing to the extreme cold weather, they had to go up the stream in search of another place at which to water the stock. They finally succeeded in watering them, but while doing so a violent storm arose with such fury that they could not get the cattle to return, and in their attempt they themselves were lost, and compelled to remain out all night. After wandering some time they found a small grove, in which they took shelter, and kept on the move all night to keep from freezing to death. They finally thought the storm had abated sufficiently to admit of their returning home, but they soon again lost their way, and were also unable to return to the clump of trees, around which they had tramped so many long hours as their only refuge. David became exhausted and Reuben gave him his left hand, keeping his right one in his pocket, as he knew the one exposed would be frozen soon, and he took the precaution to save the right hand. In this manner they moved along not knowing whither they journeyed, keeping pace across the stormy prairies, until the bitter night had passed away, and the sun had made its cheerful appearance in the eastern horizon, when they found to their utter astonishment, that they were near Mason City. They were overheard by two men who were cutting wood and who came to their relief, taking them on into Mason City. Reuben could still walk, but David was completely exhausted. David, very naturally, was the first to receive medical attention, and thus was saved from much suffering endured by Reuben, who lost his right foot, and half of the other, also a finger on his left hand. David lost a part of his right foot and two toes from the other foot. The latter resided in Worth county in 1883, and Reuben was a resident of Minnesota.

## CASE OF MATTHEW HUMPHREY.

On Christmas eve, 1872, Matthew Humphrey, a farmer living in Dougherty township, left his home with a team to go to the timber on the Shell Rock river, a distance of about ten miles, for a load of wood. On the way home with his load he was met by several neighbors, and passed Mr. Harris' house at about 6:30 o'clock in the evening. Darkness and the bitter cold of that night came on and he did not reach his home. On search being instituted the next morning, his dead body was found near the team, he having perished with the cold within one hundred rods of his own house. From the tracks and other evidences it seemed he had walked behind the load to keep warm, and it was supposed his lines had been left upon the load, and falling down wrapped about the wheel, thus stopping the team. The lines were broken, as was also one of the breast straps, and the unfortunate man had taken a strap from about his waist to repair the harness. Losing his mittens and becoming benumbed with cold, he probably thought to unhitch his team from the load and save his life by abandoning his wagon. The horses were found turned around to the side of the wagon, fastened only by one tug, and the driver was lying partially across the wagon tongue in the icy embrace of death. Mr. Humphrey had lived in the county but one season, coming here from Clayton county. He left a wife and several small children.

## THE ICE CRUST OF 1856.

The winters of 1855-6-7 were all of extreme severity, with excessive snow fall and long periods of low thermometer. During the winter of either 1856 or 1857, for there is some dispute in authority, there came during the winter time a quite heavy fall of rain. As this rain fell on the snow it froze and formed a perfectly smooth crust of ice of from one-half to an inch or more in thickness. For many a long year this winter was known and remembered as "the winter of the crust." Except among the trees and bushes, where the ice seemed more porous and not nearly so strong, the "crust" would bear up a man, and in some places would even bear up a team and its load. Men had to break the road with flails and long heavy clubs and the boys who lived in that long ago found

great sport playing on the practically illimitable ocean of smooth ice.

The winter of the crust, however, saw the last of the big game in Iowa. Prior to that winter there had been in this part of Iowa an abundance of deer and elk. The sharp feet of these animals cut through the crust and they sank to their bodies in the soft snow underneath, rendering escape from the relentless hunters practically impossible. Men and boys with dogs and guns, axes, butcher knives and clubs made a savage onslaught. A fine buck could be bought for a small sum and pelts were exceedingly cheap owing to the indiscriminate and cruel slaughter of the animals. In many cases the carcasses of deer were ranked up like cordwood and rotted down for want of purchasers. It was a short sighted as well as a heartless policy, this wanton slaughter of the deer and elk. It was as silly, criminal and inexcusable as the extermination of the American buffalo and the wholesale butchery of wild game which has begun in Africa. There was one redeeming feature to this slaughter of the deer and elk: It was a Godsend to the poor among the settlers, in that it furnished them with an abundance of meat which they must otherwise have gone without or partaken of only as a luxury, for pork and beef were scarce and high priced.

#### FLOOD OF 1878.

The Cerro Gordo *Republican* in June, 1878, gives an account of the tremendous flood of June 1, in the following language:

"The memory of the oldest settler don't reach back to a time when there was such a flood, occasioned by rainfall, as that of June 1, 1878. The whole sky was covered with a cloud of inky blackness, out of which water fell in sheets for about two hours, uninterruptedly. The total depth which fell was three and a half inches. Every gutter in Mason City was a raging river. Willow creek spread out like the Father of Waters. Much damage was done by washouts. Whitman's blacksmith shop slipped from its foundation and glided down stream gracefully with tools, material and all. At Parker's mill the water had cut around and carried away the embankment, thus forming a chute of great depth through the ground west of the mill. Through this chasm went a stream, whirling the blacksmith shop and contents against a tree, when the force of the torrent crushed it like an eggshell and stranded it. Hammers, anvils, chisels, etc., were picked up in the vicinity and

some fully a half a mile away. The rise of the water was so sudden that it cut off all escape from the mill. Thus Mr. Parker and Bumgarden had to remain in the mill till early next day, while the angry waters beat around the mill; but its walls proudly resisted the assaults of the flood and came out without damage. But the dam and embankment were badly used up. Inside the mill some loss was sustained among the stock of flour and grain on the first floor.

"But no doubt the most severe loss was that of W. O. Barnard, at his lime kiln. The flood swept around his office and undermined it until it fell, a mass of stone. The Watson bridge, west of town



PARKER'S MILL.

came riding down as majestically as a queen and lodged near Parker's mill. The corner of his lime kiln was caved in. The damage done in other parts of the county proved that it assumed the form of a terrific tornado in the southwest part of the county. Mr. Butt's house was totally demolished and scattered over the prairies. As many as a half a dozen houses were destroyed in Cerro Gordo county alone.

"The north-bound freight train on the Central of Iowa, near Rockwell, came thundering along after dark, and when the light



from the headlight showed the engineer the yawning gulf below, he reversed his engine and he and his fireman jumped in time to save their lives, but the engine, tender and seven cars, went crashing into, and buried themselves in the dark, deep stream. The bridge and dam at Rockford both went out. At the house of Thomas Faderspigel the destruction was equally as great, besides his four-year old daughter was thrown fully thirty rods into a wheat field, where she was found dead after the storm, and another child, two years older, had an arm broken, the mother one broken, and the husband was badly bruised. The loss of property and suffering caused by this fearful storm of wind, rain and hail has no parallel in this section of Iowa."

#### AN INCIDENT OF HARDSHIP.

In 1855 a man named Ralph, and his family, came to Iowa and took a claim in Worth county, near the line of Cerro Gordo county. They lost their claim and moved to Bristol; and in December of the same year, he and his wife went to Nora Springs with two yoke of oxen and a sled, for provisions. On their return they spent one day and two nights at the house of James Wright, on section 5, Falls township. The morning they left Mr. Wright's for home was pleasant, but soon it began to blow and turned extremely cold. That night one pair of their oxen returned to Wright's, and they, supposing a calamity had overtaken them, went in search. The following day William Redington and Charles Johnson started out, and after several hours found the body of the man on the sled, about nine miles from Plymouth. His wife's shawl was closely wrapped about his body. Her body was found three miles further on. It appeared that she had turned the cattle loose and started ahead on foot for help, having left her shoes on the sled, which can never be fully accounted for. She walked three miles in her stocking feet. The two bodies were brought back to Falls township and buried in one coffin, on the northwest quarter of section 21. They left five children, who were soon taken east to friends.



## PART II





## CHAPTER XVIII.

### CIVIL SUBDIVISIONS.

CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY—DIVISION INTO TOWNSHIPS—FIRST DIVISION—SECOND DIVISION—FINAL DIVISION INTO SIXTEEN TOWNSHIPS—HISTORY OF BATH TOWNSHIP—HISTORY OF UNION TOWNSHIP—HISTORY OF GRANT TOWNSHIP—HISTORY OF OWEN TOWNSHIP.

The third general assembly, which convened at Iowa City on the 2d day of December, 1850, and adjourned February 5th, 1851, created, that is, set apart and defined by metes and bounds, and gave a name to Cerro Gordo county. In 1855, four years after its creation, Cerro Gordo was, by an order issued by Judge John M. Hunt, attached to Floyd county for judicial and other purposes and organized as a township of Floyd county. This condition of affairs, however, did not last long as on the 7th day of August of that year Cerro Gordo county was organized and became an independent commonwealth.

When the county was organized in 1855, it was divided by Judge Hunt into three civil townships having the respective names of Canaan, Lake and Owen. The records do not designate the territory embraced by these townships respectively.

On the 17th day of December, 1856, Judge J. S. Church divided the county into four civil townships under the names of Mason, Falls, Lake and Owen.

Various changes have taken place since that time, in the boundaries of the townships, until today Cerro Gordo county has sixteen civil townships, whose boundaries are coincident with those of the sixteen congressional townships of which the county is comprised. Following is a list of the sixteen civil townships by name, together with the congressional townships which are embraced by each:

Falls embraces township 97, range 19; Lime Creek, township 97, range 20; Lincoln, township 97, range 21; Grant, township 97,

range 22; Portland, township 96, range 19; Mason, township 96, range 20; Lake, township 96, range 21; Clear Lake, township 96, range 22; Owen, township 95, range 19; Bath, township 95, range 20; Mt. Vernon, township 95, range 21; Union, township 95, range 22; Dougherty, township 94, range 19; Geneseo, township 94, range 20; Pleasant Valley, township 94, range 21; Grimes, township 94, range 22.

Following is a brief history of each civil township.

#### BATH TOWNSHIP.

Bath township comprises township 95, range 20 west, and is bounded by Mason on the north, by Owen on the east, Geneseo on the south and by Mt. Vernon on the west. Bath township furnishes one of the most perfect specimens of glacial action in Cerro Gordo county. The glaciers of the Kansan and Iowan periods leveled its ancient hills and filled up its old-time valleys until there is but little left of the old pre-glacial topography except a few great undulating swells where were once well defined hills and ridges, and broad shallow swales or sloughs where were once well defined creek valleys. The township is one of the levellest in the county. It is a typical "drift" prairie township, with a gently undulating surface and possessed of a rich, deep loamy soil. Three small streams have their source in the township, one flowing away to the eastward into Owen township and two flowing southerly into the Beaver Dam in Geneseo township. Bath possessed no natural timber and on that account, although favorably located, it did not settle so rapidly as some of the other townships of the county.

The lack of natural timber has been, in a large degree, made up by the planting and setting out of trees on a large scale throughout the township. Groves and tree plantations now dot the surface of the township and many of the country highways are shaded by trees planted by the roadside. While there is still much to be desired in the way of drainage, fertilization and improved methods of farming, a great deal along all of these lines has already been accomplished and steady, progressive improvement is everywhere visible. The township produces large numbers of horses, cattle and hogs and yields good crops of hay, corn, oats, potatoes and barley.

*Early Settlement.*—Two men, Tucker and Cantonwine, made

the first settlement in Bath township, near Owen's Grove, on section 1, in 1856. Mr. Tucker came from one of the eastern states, remained until some time in the later '70s, and removed to Kansas. Mr. Cantonwine, who was a carpenter by trade, stayed only one winter and left in the spring of 1857. No other settlers came in until 1864, at which time Horatio B. Morrison, a native of New Hampshire, settled on section 15. Mr. Morrison was a very enterprising man, possessed of a natural genius and a thorough mechanic. He opened a blacksmith shop and remained here until 1868, when he removed to Mason City. He afterward went to Britt, in Hancock county, where he engaged in the hardware trade. Among the next settlers were: George O. Fuller, Thomas N. Brown, Andrew Roeder, Philip Brisbin and Robert L. Lillibridge, all of whom came before 1875.

Bath township was not organized until 1876. The first township meeting was held in the school house on section 16 and the township formally organized. The following officers were elected: T. B. Lyman, George Gibson, and George O. Fuller, trustees; H. H. Willey, clerk; Philip Brisbin, assessor.

Although Bath township is traversed by three separate lines of railroad, the Chicago & Northwestern, Iowa Central and the Des Moines & Northern or "Short Line," it is without any towns or villages and has but two railway stations. The first of these is Cameron, near the center of the township, on the Iowa Central railroad. While it is merely a flag station so far as passenger traffic is concerned, it is a place of considerable importance as a shipping point, it being the location of a branch of the Farmer's Co-operative Society of Rockwell, which has an elevator, warehouse, corn cribs, coal sheds, etc., here. The society buys and sells grain of all kinds and handles live stock and grain for its members. It also deals in lumber, salt, coal, hardware, farm implements and provisions. A large aggregate business is transacted.

The other railway station in Bath township is located on the Des Moines & Northern Railroad and is called Hurley. The farmers of the vicinage have a co-operative store, elevator, coal, sheds, etc., at Hurley and are doing an increasing business.

In old times, before the building of the Iowa Central Railroad, there used to be an overland mail route from Mason City to Linn Grove, afterward called Rockwell. In 1864 H. B. Morrison, who settled in the township that year, got a postoffice established and

himself appointed postmaster. He was the first and last postmaster and his postoffice was the first and last postoffice along this long forgotten overland mail route between Mason City and Linn Grove, as four years later, in 1868, he left the township and with his going the postoffice was abandoned. The railroad was built within a year or two and the old overland mail route across the treeless plains of Bath ceased to be. A pathetic incident connected with the life of Mr. Morrison was the death of an infant child in 1868, the year of the discontinuance of his postoffice, followed, within a week by the sad death of his wife and the mother of his dead baby. Both wife and child, the mother and her babe, were buried in the cemetery at Linn Grove; and so, both started on their last long journey over the old overland trail and let us cherish the faith that the journey did not end until it had passed the Pearly Gates.

*The Schools of Early Times.*—The first school taught within the territory which afterward became Bath township, was taught by Miss Emma Adams in the long gone, almost forgotten summer of 1856, twenty years before the organization of the township. The school was taught in the dwelling of Mr. Cantonwine and was for the accommodation of a few children in a pioneer neighborhood. The pupils who received instruction from Miss Adams in that improvised school in Mr. Cantonwine's house in 1856 have at this writing, 1910, either passed to their reward, or are old men and women.

Eleven years passed away before there was another school taught in Bath and this found its abiding place in a straw shed, during the summer of 1865, the year in which the Civil war finally came to a close. This school was taught by Miss Louisa Vandermark. Eight years more came and went before the hardy pioneers of Bath felt strong enough to make a move for the permanent establishment of schools in the township. In 1873, three years before the organization of the township, a school house was erected on the northeast corner of section 16. The first school taught in this school house was by Miss Lizzie Rockwell, daughter of Hon. George B. Rockwell, of Rockwell. Miss Rockwell afterward married John Adam Felthous and died of cancer of the throat in a hospital in St. Paul, in 1907, a lamented wife and mother. Miss Rockwell boarded with George O. Fuller, who ran a wire from his house to the school house so that the teacher and scholars might not



get lost in the blinding storms of winter, so common in those days in northern Iowa. This building was moved in 1877 to the southwest quarter of section 3.

The same year another new schoolhouse was erected on the northwest quarter of section 22. Miss Ida Case taught the first term of school in this building. There was preaching in this school house for quite a number of years under the auspices of the Congregational church of Rockwell. District No. 2 was originally composed of eight sections and had two school houses. The first, which was the school house in which Miss Rockwell taught her first term of school, was moved from section 16 on to section 3, where Miss Lizzie Murray taught the first term. The second school house was erected in 1882 on the southwest quarter of section 1. The first teacher in this school house was Joseph Riley. In district No. 3 the first school was taught in Jacob Kuppinger's house in 1879. During the summer of 1873 a school house was erected in district No. 4, section 19, and the first term of school was taught by a Norwegian named Juglun. The first school house in district No. 6 was erected in 1876 on the northwest quarter of section 4. This building was used for school purposes but a short time and then converted into a residence. In 1877 a school house was built on section 13. Miss Ella Miller, daughter of Captain George R. Miller, of Mason City, taught the first term of school.

Since those pioneer days of first things, Bath township has advanced along with the other country townships and has long since had a good, substantial school house in each of its nine school districts and a school system as efficient as that of any country township in the county. For further information see the chapter on schools.

Bath township has always had its share of intelligence and has produced its quota of public men to the state and county. The Hon. Norman Densmore of Bath township represented Cerro Gordo county in the house of the 21st and 22d general assemblies. He was for many years one of the leading citizens of the county. He was one of the organizers and for many years the president of the famous Farmer's Co-operative Society of Rockwell. He was also one of the organizers and for many years president of the Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company of Cerro Gordo county. At present, 1910, he is president of the Iowa State Tornado Insurance Company and resides in Des Moines.

Another distinguished man of Bath was James H. Brown.

For a full account of the honors achieved and the places of trust filled by this honored citizen of Bath, consult the sketch of his life and career in another part of this work.

#### UNION TOWNSHIP.

Union township comprises the territory embraced in congressional township 95, range 22 west, and is bounded on the north by Clear Lake township, on the west by Hancock county, on the south by Grimes township and on the east by Mt. Vernon township. Union township was covered by the last of the great ice sheets which visited this part of North America and which closed the glacial epoch, the Wisconsin glacier. The soil and topography of Union township are the creatures of the Wisconsin glacier and its border or moraine, called by geologists the Altamont moraine. The central and western parts represent the leveling process of the great ice plane, while the southeastern part represents the great heaps and ridges of earth, mud, sand and gravel, left along its outer edge by the glacier when it melted away. Originally the soil of the uplands was of the same quality as that of the flat land and swales, but the wash and leach of the thousand years has had a tendency to render it somewhat lighter than that of the more level land. Nothing but artificial drainage is needed to give the black flat lands an almost inexhaustible fertility. Sheep and cattle, together with the staple crops of this region, go to make up the township's chief products.

*Social Life.*—Owing to its comparative isolation and to its scanty supply of natural timber, it was well along in the '60s before Union township received any settlement, and after its commencement, settlement was always slow. The township has never had a railway within its borders and no towns or villages. As a result it is a purely agricultural community. Its social diversions are confined principally to occasional preaching, the Sunday school, country dances, "parties," spelling bees, and school "exhibitions." Although in some respects somewhat more primitive in their social life than the inhabitants of some other townships, the people of Union township are not far from the famous summer resort at Clear Lake with its Chautauquas, its lectures, great camp meetings, its musical entertainments, its amusements, fashionable displays and pleasures; and Mason City,

the metropolis of the region, is close at hand; so that, all in all, the people of Union township, for all of their comparative isolation, are no whit behind their brothers and sisters of the other townships in their knowledge and enjoyment of the thoughts, aspirations and amenities of modern life.

*Early Settlement.*—The first settlers in the township were James Smith, Albert Price and his two sons Robert and William, who came in 1865. The next to come were Robert and William Owens, who came about 1866 or 1867. George Ward purchased a farm in the township in 1865 and settled on it in 1867. Joseph Brayton and his son Charles Brayton, came in 1867. Thomas Callanan came in the later '60s. The Henry family came in 1869. David W. Hamstreet came in 1871. E. S. Pride came in 1877. Wesley Benner, Garder R. Hickok and John G. Parker came in 1875. Charles B. Hamstreet and T. B. Hobbs came in 1875. George Hamstreet came in 1878 and Fred Sheldon in 1879.

*Some First Things.*—The first marriage in Union township was O. A. Benner and Emma Chamberlin, who were married in February, 1880. The ceremony was performed by David W. Hamstreet, then justice of the peace.

The first birth occurred in September, 1870. It was a son of Thomas Callanan.

The first death was a child of E. S. Pride.

Birth, Marriage, Death! The three overshadowing facts of human existence. All the rest is mere incident.

*Educational.*—The first school in Union township was held in a log house on section 16. The first teacher was Henrietta Sirrine, who had but five scholars, Thos., William and Mary Callanan, and Edward and Mary Brayton. This was in the summer of 1870. The same summer a new school house was built on section 16 at a cost of \$300. This was a modest enough sum in all conscience. It should be borne in mind, however, that the same building erected in 1910 would cost at the least \$600. Miss Sirrine also taught the first term in the new school house, and presumably had the same pupils. The second school house was built on section 6, in 1874, at a cost of \$400. This building, if erected in 1910, would cost at least \$800. The first teacher in this second new school building was Mary Hubbard. Six years later, in 1880, a third school house

was built on section 25, at a cost of \$350. The first term in this building was taught by Emma Benner. The Hughes school house was built in 1876 at a cost of \$400, Miss Emma Chamberlin being the first to teach in it. She was the young lady who four years later became the bride of O. A. Benner. In the spring of 1880, there was a school house built on section 11. This was one of the \$350 type. While necessarily small these \$350 buildings were probably large enough for the purpose. The first teacher in this building was William Callanan, who, ten years before, in 1870, had been one of Miss Henrietta Sirrine's little pupils.

*Organic.*—On the 2d day of June, 1876, a petition was filed with the county auditor of Cerro Gordo county and addressed to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of said county, which, after the introduction, read: "Your petitioners, residents of the township of Clear Lake, county of Cerro Gordo, and state of Iowa, do hereby petition your honorable body to form a new township, composed of township No. 95, range 22, and sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, of township 94, range 22, to be called Union township."

The petition was signed by William Gillett, George T. Ward, J. W. Sparks, G. R. Hickok, M. Welsh, E. B. Pride, Wesley Benner, Cyrus Brayton, James Stork, I. S. Parker, O. A. Benner, D. M. Tice, Michael Henry, Thomas Henry, Levi Miles, C. R. Hamstreet, D. W. Hamstreet, James Callanan, Thomas Callanan, Jacob A. Hetland, Thomas Morris, G. W. Biglow, John Jewell.

This petition was finally granted, and an election ordered for the selection of township officers, and the formal organization of the township with the name of Union. The election was held at the school house on section 16, in the spring of 1877. The first township officers were Wesley Benner, James Stork and John Furse, trustees; Charles Hamstreet, assessor; E. S. Pride, clerk; Thomas Henry, constable. The records do not disclose whether a justice of the peace was elected and qualified or not.

#### GRANT TOWNSHIP.

Grant township was named in honor of General Ulysses S. Grant, the "Silent Man of Appomattox." It comprises the territory of congressional township 97, range 22 west. It is



bounded on the north by Worth county, on the west by Hancock county, on the south by Clear Lake township, and on the east by Lincoln township.

*Physical Features.*—Grant township was originally well timbered as that term is understood in a prairie country, and was a favorite haunt for all manner of beast and fowl that finds its habitat in this part of the middle west, and was therefore a paradise for the early hunter and trapper. But, alas! in the early days the law was lax, the necessities of the pioneers great, and their opportunities for spoliation ample; and as a result most of the timber was cut off during the early days when each man was a law unto himself. The hunter, the trapper and the animals they hunted and trapped are gone with the woods and the red men, never to return.

Only about one-fourth of the land of Grant township is low land; the other three-fourths is uneven uplands. The upland soil is the same as that of the other townships of the county lying within the limits of the Altamont moraine, a rich sandy loam, becoming gravelly on the summits of the higher eminences. These higher eminences are simply huge heaps of detritus left along the border of the Wisconsin glacier, and the so-called uplands are nothing but a section of the glacier's moraine. Grant township, like all the other townships within the Altamont moraine, is possessed of a variety of fertile soils which yield a diversity of the crops produced in this region of country. Lime Creek, the principal stream of Cerro Gordo county, enters the county on section 10 of this township and after flowing through sections 20, 17, 8, 9, 4 and 3 leaves the township and county and enters Worth county.

*Early Settlement.*—Abram Bennett, a hunter and trapper, to which calling he gave by far the greater part of his attention, was the first settler in Grant township. Mr. Bennett built a log cabin on section 36, which not only served him as a private dwelling house, but was also used for the accommodation of travelers. Bennett broke the first land in the township. James Spear broke the next land in the township. The next breaking was done by George Frost, who broke thirty-four acres and from it raised six hundred bushels of wheat which he hauled to Waverly and sold for 35 cents per bushel, and with the money paid 50 cents per yard for cotton cloth. Ten bushels of wheat then would buy seven yards

of cotton cloth. At the present time, 1910, ten bushels of wheat would considerably more than buy 100 yards of cotton cloth.

James Spear first came into Grant township in 1857, at which time he located his land and engaged Abram Bennett to build him a cabin. He then returned to Ohio, and in 1858, May the 7th, he reached the land of promise, in Grant township.

Mark Dexter came in 1863. The next settlers came in 1865. Among their number were J. W. Cook, Messrs King and Thompson, and Silan Noyes. In 1866 came McReady Martin, a Mr. Faulp and Homer Fisher. In 1867 Charles Booth. In 1869 came Henry Garlock, David Garlock and Ellsworth H. Sampson. In 1870, H. L. Brown came from Lime Creek township where he had settled in 1856, and settled in Grant township. This same year also came Hiram E. Brown, a son of H. L. Brown, and J. R. Carr.

H. L. Brown was a respected and honored citizen, having held many places of trust in township affairs, such as justice of the peace, etc. He was also a kindly Christian man and a member of the Methodist church. His son, Hiram E. Brown, was also a respected, intelligent and educated gentleman and was one of the oldest and most successful traders in the country. He was married Christmas day, the day of peace on earth and good will toward men, to Sarah E. Miller.

*First Events.*—The first marriage in Grant township was George Osborne and Annie Booth.

The first birth, was a son to James and Beatrice Spear, who was born March 29th, 1861, but a few days before the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the beginning of the Civil war.

The first deaths which occurred were three children of Mr. and Mrs. Spear, who died of diphtheria in June, 1863. These children were all young. James, the eldest, who died June 3rd, was only ten, while William, who died June 6, was but five and little Mildred had barely seen two summers. She died June 7. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

*Organic.*—The first general election and the one at which the township was organized, occurred November 3, 1868. The meeting was called to order by Frank Hartshorn, clerk of the district court, who appointed William Owen, M. C. Martin and J. W. Cook judges of the election. Abram King and H. Humphrey were clerks of the election. At this election the following officers were

elected: J. W. Cook, L. F. McMillen, McReady Martin, trustees; Abram King, clerk; H. Humphrey, assessor; Squire Humphrey, supervisor; Abram King and William Owens, justices of the peace; Charles Booth and Squire Humphrey, constables.

It will be noted that Abram King was elected to the two offices of township clerk and justice of the peace and that Squire Humphrey was elected to the two offices of county supervisor and constable.

*Schools.*—Grant township's first school was the result of the efforts of one man, Mr. James Spear, who made application for a school in 1862. An arrangement was finally entered into by which Spear was to furnish the school and the public was to hire a teacher. Spear built a log cabin and the township hired Miss Ellen Tuttle to teach the school. There were but four pupils in this first school, John, James, Maggie and Willie Spear. Miss Tuttle's wages was the magnificent sum of \$2.50 per week. Out of this she paid Mrs. Spear \$1.00 per week for board. This transaction sheds a flood of light on teachers' wages and the price paid for board in those old days of the pioneers.

The school house in district No. 1, was built by Mark Dexter in 1879, at a cost of \$540. There seems to be no record of who was the first teacher in this building.

The school house in what is now district No. 2, was built in 1879. It was a stone structure and cost \$540. Jackson White was the first teacher.

The school building in sub-district No. 3, was built in 1871 by Mark Dexter at a cost of \$487. It was built on the south-west quarter of section 19, but was afterward moved to section 17. Miss Irene Hubbard was the first teacher.

In 1868 a very substantial stone school building was erected in district No. 4, on the north-west quarter of section 16, at the unusual high cost of \$700. Harrison Humphrey taught the first term of school in this district in the winter of 1868-9.

The school house for district No. 5 was built by Mark Dexter on section 25, in 1871, at a cost of \$487. There seems to be no record of the first teacher.

The school house in district No. 6 was a frame building moved from Clear Lake township in 1878 on to section 30. Miss Pence was the first teacher.

## Miscellaneous.

The people of Grant township have always been of a religious turn of mind and have been as mindful of the spiritual as of the material and educational welfare of their little commonwealth. Besides individual members of other denominations, the Christian, the United Brethren and the Free Methodists, have, at different periods, had church organizations in the township.

The Grant township cemetery was platted in 1870.

## OWEN TOWNSHIP.

This township is bounded on the north by Portland township, on the east by Floyd county, on the south by Dougherty township and on the west by Bath township, and comprises congressional township 95 north and range 19 west. The northern part and the eastern half of the township is rolling and in some places rough. The best farms in the township are located in the rolling portions. The southwestern fourth of the township is quite level and in some places it is inclined to be wet and need artificial drainage. Still, taken as a whole, Owen township is one of the most productive in the county.

*Early Settlement.*—Alonzo Wilson, a New England yankee of considerable means and thrifty habits, settled on the north-eastern quarter of section 6 in 1855 where he remained until 1878, when he moved to Mason City, where he still resides, hale and hearty, although nearly 100 years of age.

Abiel Pierce, of Massachusetts, a second cousin of President Franklin Pierce, came to the township and entered land on the northwest quarter of section 5. He improved this place and remained thereon until 1869, at which time he sold to Jesse Hill, and removed to Illinois.

C. W. Wicks, of Massachusetts, came to Owen township in 1855, and entered the southwest quarter of section 5. He was frozen to death in December of that year.

In 1856 a man named Willson, known as Chicago Willson, in distinction from Alonzo or Yankee Wilson, who came about the same time, came from Chicago and settled on section 3, where he died a few years later. His widow removed to Mason City.



Brazil Updike settled in 1858 on the northwest quarter of section 12, which he improved and lived upon for some years, but finally sold and left the county.

*Organic.*—The eastern one third of Cerro Gordo county was organized into a township in 1854, and called Owen in honor of Anson C. Owen, one of the original settlers of the county. At an election held at A. J. Glover's April 7, 1856, A. J. Glover, Andrew Kramer and George Bence were the judges, and C. W. Tenney clerk. The following is a list of the voters at that election: Ira Williams, Daniel Reed, Robert Campbell, C. W. Tenney, Herman M. Redington, A. J. Glover, J. M. Molesberry, H. G. Gregory, Judson Ford, John Morgan, Oliver Ford, George W. Clymer, John Clymer, Adam Kramer, Joseph Gregory, Richard Morris, Elijah Wiltfong, Hiram Smothers, David Smothers, Chauncey Lugard, Enoch Wiltfong, Henry Day, Charles Bootan, William Redington, George Frederick, Malcom Brown, George S. Burrell.

At this election Adam Kramer and Horace Gregory were elected trustees; Chas. W. Tenney and George S. Bence, justices of the peace; A. J. Glover, clerk; Jasper Gregory and Henry Day, constables; Charles W. Tenney, assessor..

The first presidential election in which the people of this township took part was that of 1856. There were 35 votes cast, of which 32 were cast for the Republican electors and 3 for the Democratic electors.

At an election held June 27, 1882, to vote for or against the proposed amendment to the constitution, which was to prohibit the sale or manufacture of spiritous liquors within the state of Iowa, the vote stood as follows: Forty-eight votes for the amendment and twenty-seven against it. At this same election was submitted the proposition for bonding the county to build a new court house. The vote on this proposition stood, nine votes for and fifty-nine against.

The first child born in Owen township was Charles, a son of Abiel and Mary Pierce, born March 3, 1857. This boy grew to manhood and engaged in teaching in Illinois.

The first marriage was that of Frank Shonys to Alice I. Willson, February 10, 1867. They afterward moved to Kansas.

The Owen Grove Cemetery was laid out in 1875 on the northeast quarter of section 5. This cemetery is still in use in 1910.

*Schools.*—In district No. 1, the first school house was erected in 1868, on section 12. It was a stone building which served the district until 1873. Belle Barney was the first teacher in this house. Religious services were held in this building from time to time for several years.

In district No. 2 a school house was built in 1874, on the northwest quarter of section 9, at a cost of \$125. Miss Belle Bowe, of Rockwell taught the first school in this building. In 1879 this house was removed to section 13, and the present house was built on the southwest quarter of section 3, at a cost of \$600. Emily Trevitt was the first teacher.

In district No. 4 a school house was built in 1875 at a cost of \$450. It stood on the southwest quarter of section 20. George Curtis taught the first school.

The first school taught in district No. 5, was taught by Janet McLain in her father's house, on section 15. The first school-house was built in 1870, on the northeast quarter of section 16. Kate Bell was the first teacher. In 1876 this building was removed to section 22. This is the "center" school house of Owen township and it was in this school house that the town meetings, township school meetings, caucuses and elections were held. Religious services were also held here.

In district No. 6 the first school was taught by Alma Harroun in the winter of 1879-80. It was held in a building removed from district No. 2. The first school house erected in the district was built in 1881, on section 14. Julia Sawyer was the first teacher. In 1882 a union Sabbath school was formed at this house. Robert Gray was chosen superintendent. The school only lasted about ten months.

John Byrne taught the first school in district No. 7, in Neal Fullerton's granary, on section 25. There were two terms taught in this building and two in John Cahill's house. The school house was built in 1878 on the southwest quarter of section 26. Lynford Getts was the first teacher.

*The Old Stone School House.*—The first school house erected in Owen township was built in 1857. It was a stone building, two stories high and cost \$2,200, an enormous sum for that day. There was a belfry on the building in which was a Troy bell, costing \$250. This was hauled from Dubuque by ox teams. The old stone school house stood in the southern edge of Owen's Grove. For many a

long year it was used for church and Sunday school purposes as well as for school purposes. The bell was provided for the purpose of summoning the worshippers on the Sabbath mornings and evenings of the long ago. With the old settlers of the neighborhood there were many sacred associations connected with the old stone school house. It still stands and although it has for years been put to the ignoble use of a granary, its decaying walls, could they speak, might tell of many happy as well as sorrowful scenes when the pioneers occupied the land. In 1873 a new school house was built at a cost of \$600. Kate McClement taught the first school.

The old stone school house was built out of money raised by taxes on speculators' land. This was a scheme of Alonzo Wilson's. Wilson saw the land speculators buying up and holding the land for an advance in price, which must come after the government land at \$1.25 per acre was all gone. As it was the improvements by the old settlers and the demand for land by new settlers that caused the rise in the price of land, Wilson determined that the settlers should have a share in this increment. The result was the taxation of the speculators' land and the building of the old stone school house. For years the school taught in this school house was the largest in the county. Bruce Wilson taught eleven terms here with an average attendance of 63 scholars. The second story of the school house was intended for church purposes, but it also answered the purpose of a public hall and many a countryside ball was held within its sacred precincts at which the younger and middle-aged, both married and single of the pioneers chased the fleeting hours from sun till sun, to the enlivening strains of the fiddle and the viol.

*Religions.*—Whatever may be said of its morals by its friends and enemies, Owen township was always religious and contained a large percentage of church members and maintained several places of religious worship. Of late years the percentage of church members has declined somewhat, but a few years ago, say in the decade of the nineties, it is probable that, excluding the very small children, fully 90 per cent of the people belonged to some church organization. During that time the Congregationalists had two church organizations, the North Owen and the South Owen churches. The North Owen church had its place of meeting in the Jacobs school house, while the South Owen church had its

meetings in the Sherwood school house. The South church finally disintegrated, partly owing to the removal of some of the families composing it, and partly owing to internal dissensions. A part of the membership joined the Congregational church at Rockwell and a part joined the North Owen church. Thus re-enforced, the North Owen church, during the later '90s, erected a fine church edifice not far from the Jacobs school house.

For many years the Free Methodists had a strong working church organization at Owen Center. There was regular preaching, a flourishing Sunday school, prayer meetings, etc. Of late years, however, there has been somewhat of a decline in membership and zeal and regular preaching has been discontinued.

A few years ago a Protestant union church edifice was erected near the southern boundary of Owen township in Dougherty township and quite a congregation of diverse membership of various Protestant denominations gathered together. A considerable part of this union congregation resided in Owen township, in Cartersville and the surrounding country. This church has of late years been taken over by the Methodist Episcopal church and there is a regular Methodist pastorate there.

About 25 per cent of the population of Owen township are Roman Catholics. These have church connections at Rockwell and Dougherty.

In the eastern part of the township there are several Protestant families who have church connections in Rockford, Floyd county.

*Organic.*—Owen township furnished Cerro Gordo county with its representative in the 24th and 25th general assemblies in the person of Hon. John W. Bird.

The township received its name from Anson C. Owen, an early settler in the county and a fine specimen of the sturdy pioneer. In the latter part of his life Owen resided in Mason City and was for a time the city marshal, being at the time eighty years of age and hale and hearty. He enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest city marshal in the state and probably in the United States. As an evidence of his physical condition at this time, he used to have a standing challenge out to run any man of eighty in the state a foot race. There are no takers recorded.

Perhaps one, if not the most unique of Owen township's characters, was Alonzo Wilson. Wilson came to Cerro Gordo county



and settled in Owen township near Owen's Grove in 1855. As riches were counted in those days, he was a wealthy man. When he came he brought with him \$10,000 in gold. As that was the days of wild cat and red dog money, that is, worthless or greatly depreciated state bank issues of paper money. Wilson's gold was, in purchasing power, greatly in excess of its face value. When Wilson came to the county he found that all of the timber land of Owen's Grove had been bought up and was held by Anson C. Owen for speculative purposes. Wilson could get none of the timber land, but worked a shrewd counter scheme by buying all of the prairie land surrounding the grove. Before long Owen wanted prairie land for farming purposes and Wilson forced him into an exchange. At one time in after years Wilson owned the whole of Owen's Grove and, at this writing, 1910, still owns a large part of it. Wilson was a great dealer in cattle in the long ago days, buying 'cattle' all over north central Iowa. He also engaged in the milling business at Rockford for several years, at the same time operating his large farm near Owen's Grove.

*Owen Center or Tailholt.*—In the old days, before there was any railroad, Owen Center was the hub around which the affairs of the whole township revolved. It was the place for holding the town meetings by the trustees and the sub-directors of the school districts, the place for caucuses and elections and, before the Free Methodist revival, back in the '80s, it was the chosen place for social gatherings where Terpsichore reigned supreme in the country dance. After the Free Methodist revival, church suppers took the place of the dances. There were also the Sunday school, preaching, prayer meetings and occasional protracted meetings. Finally a store and postoffice were added and then a creamery and even a cane mill. One cannot wonder that in the somewhat lonely country side, Owen Center became a place of relative importance and that the people of the immediate vicinage should gradually become somewhat proud.

But pride goeth before a fall. Owen Center at the very climax of its glory began a decline which finally terminated in an inglorious fall. The decline and fall of Owen Center came in great part from a mere word. A township was one day christened it with the name of "Tailholt", taking the name from a poem which was going the rounds of the newspapers twenty years ago. The name was an epithet of ridicule and even Owen Center could not

withstand the blasting effect of ridicule. The literary society died out; there came trouble in the church and the congregation disintegrated and the preaching, prayer meetings and church suppers ceased; the store was moved away and the postoffice discontinued; and although the elections and town meetings were still held in the school house and although the cane mill was left and although one of the neighbors bought a new steam threshing machine and another a well drill and although the creamery still staggered along, there was continued, constant decline. The creamery died for want of patronage, the cane mill languished for the same reason; and then came the Northwestern railway and two railway stations in Owen, and Tailholt, tired of the conflict, went out like a flickering candle. Today "Ichabod" is written in bold letters across the names of both Owen Center and "Tailholt."

The Northwestern Railroad, which was built during the first decade of the present century, runs in a diagonal course through the township from the southeast to the northwest cutting off the southwest fourth of the township. There are two stations on this line in or partly in Owen, Cartersville and Hanford. Cartersville is the larger and has two elevators, a farmer's co-operative and a line elevator, a bank, etc. Hanford has an elevator, store, etc.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### LAKE TOWNSHIP.

LAKE TOWNSHIP—THE FOUNDING OF LIVONIA AND THE COUNTY SEAT WAR—LIVONIA'S DEFEAT AND OBLITERATION—SPECULATION AS TO THE RESPECTIVE FORTUNES OF LIVONIA AND MASON CITY HAD THE RESULT OF THE COUNTY SEAT CONTEST FAVORED THE FORMER INSTEAD OF THE LATTER—THOMAS O. HOWARD—"DEAD ON THE FIELD OF HONOR."

Originally Lake township constituted fully one third of the total area of Cerro Gordo county and, with its large and prosperous settlement at and around Clear Lake, was one of the most important, in wealth, area and population, of the county divisions. So important was it in these respects that when, in 1855, shortly after the organization of the county, the commissioners appointed by Judge Samuel Murdock to locate the county seat decided favorably to Mason City, Lake in its pride of wealth, population and area determined to contest the decision of the commissioners and secure the county capital itself.

To do this, it was necessary, first of all, to secure the appointment of a new commission, and this the Lakers were successful in doing. This new commission was composed of Stephen H. Henderson of Mitchell county, James Taggart, of Benton county, and George McCoy. In 1857 this commission came to relocate the county seat of Cerro Gordo county.

The commission met at Clear Lake, April 29, 1857, and after taking the oath of office, administered by I. W. Card, who was then a justice of the peace, proceeded to investigate not so much the rival claims of the contestants as the claims of the Lakers. After due investigation and deliberation the commission made a report in favor of the Lakers by selecting a part of section 18 of township 96, range 21 west, which is the same as modern Lake township.

After defining the place of their selection by metes and bounds, the commissioners in their report to the county judge of

Cerro Gordo county, J. S. Church, say, "We have named the said selection 'Livonia.' The commission therefore adjudge, determine and hereby constitute said Livonia henceforth the seat of justice of said county of Cerro Gordo. And the above described selection and description of land shall be the site and locality for the erection of the necessary county buildings."

The report of the commission was made April 30, 1857, and steps were at once taken to carry the decree of the commission into effect. The construction of a court house was begun and completed during the summer of 1857, and late in the fall a part of the county records were moved from Mason City and placed in the new court house at Livonia. C. H. Huntly, treasurer and recorder and E. D. Huntly, clerk of the court, both moved their records and offices to the new court house and spent most of the winter of 1857-8 at Livonia.

Lake township had won the second battle in the county seat war and would have fain sat down for a moment and enjoyed a little needed rest and the fruits of victory, after the heat and smoke and strenuous labor of the fight. But, alas and alack! There was to be no rest for the weary, no spoils for the victors. The whole country to the east and northeast was up in arms and no sooner did the county court convene than a petition signed by over half the voters of the county, asking the court to grant an election to be held in April, 1858, to submit to the voters of the county the question "Shall the county seat of Cerro Gordo county be removed from Livonia to Mason City." Judge J. S. Church, the county judge presiding, granted the prayer of the petition and set the first Monday in April, 1858, as the momentous day for the battle of the ballots.

From the beginning it had really been a hopeless war for Lake, for it was a war against the logic of the situation as well as a war against overwhelming numbers. Livonia was located at one side of the county and the county was without roads or bridges and no means of transportation save that of foot and team. It would have been inconvenient for a great majority of the people with the county gridironed with railroads, the streams all bridged and the wagon roads ditched and graded as they are today. In 1858 such a situation was intolerable. Therefore the large settlements on the Lime and the Shell Rock were united against the one settlement on Clear Lake.

But the Lakers were brave and full of fight, even though the



fight was hopeless and a hot campaign lasting from early in February to April was fought without quarter given or asked by either side, when the votes were counted, the inevitable had happened: Mason City had won with 155 votes and Livonia had lost with 48 votes. In other words the people of the Lime and the Shell Rock had defeated the people of the Lake by 107 majority in a total vote of 203.

The county seat, together with the officers and records went back to Mason City and Livonia vanished from the face of the earth as utterly as Carthage and Nineveh and more utterly, for not even a stake or stone marks the site of Livonia, while massive ruins still attest the ancient power and glory of the Punic and Assyrian capitals.

It is idle to speculate on results had that battle of the ballots for the county seat two and fifty years ago, dealt defeat to Mason City and victory to Livonia. It is a demonstrated fact that the seat of county government is alone insufficient for the building of cities; yet had the county seat remained at Livonia would not or would the Iowa Central Railway when it came to be built a little more than ten years later have deflected enough to the west so as to have passed through Livonia instead of Mason City, and would the Milwaukee road have built its shops and round house and established its division headquarters at Livonia instead of at Mason City? These are questions for the philosopher and not for the historian to answer. It may not be amiss, however, to point out that in that early time when means of communication in the way of trade were entirely inadequate, Mason City possessed several very important advantages over Livonia. For example, Mason City possessed the only quarries of building stone for miles around; Livonia had none. Mason City possessed limestone for an important and growing lime industry; Livonia had none. For Livonia's single, rather inadequate water power at the foot of the lake, Mason City had as good if not better at Parker's mill and a much better one at the Kuppinger mill.

The possession of these advantages by Mason City would have more than offset the possession of the county seat by Livonia even at that early day. Later developments showed Mason City to possess a thousand fold greater natural advantages. For instance, the Devonian shales out of which the brick and drain tile are made, are close to the surface and therefore workable at Mason

City, while at Livonia, if they exist at all, they are buried deep under the detritus of the Altamont moraine; Mason City possesses an accessible abundance of the material out of which Portland Cement is made while Livonia has nothing of the sort.

To sum up—It is altogether probable that had Livonia remained the county seat it would be but little larger than the present town of Clear Lake and Mason City would be substantially what it is today, minus the court house and jail.

Although once of so much importance in the county, owing to its large area and relatively large wealth and population, the history of Lake after the closing of the first chapter, has been an uneventful one. In 1865 Clear Lake was detached from it and as the years went by it was gradually robbed of its territorial patrimony until it was finally reduced to a tract of land six miles square, embracing only congressional township 96, range 21 west.

Lake township as it is now organized, is bounded on the east by Mason township, on the north by Lincoln, on the west by Clear Lake township and on the south by Mt. Vernon.

As the traveler enters Lake township from Mason township he notes that the almost level prairies on the left are giving way to a land covered with low hills and mound-like eminences. These are the huge heaps of detritus left by the Wisconsin glacier.

Geologically, when one passes from Mason into Lake township, he passes from an older into a newer country. Mason township has the soil and topography created and left by the Iowan glacier, while Lake township has the soil and the topography created and left by the Wisconsin glacier. As is pointed out elsewhere in this work, the time interval between the retreat of the Iowan and the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier, was probably not less, and may have been more than twenty thousand years. So the traveler who passes from Mason township into Lake township, at the same time spans a gulf of twenty milleniums.

Lake is one of the best agricultural townships in the county. Its hills, which are really mere heaps of earth, are, like most of those of the Altamont moraine, fertile clear to the summit, and it has less low, wet land than most of the townships in the region of the Iowan drift. Its rich soil produces abundant crops of corn, oats, barley and potatoes, as well as all kinds of forage crops. Of late, the growing of sugar beets has become a large, growing and profitable agricultural industry. The township is also noted for its fine cattle, horses, sheep and swine.

Lake township is well watered by Willow creek and its numerous small tributaries. The main branch of this stream finds its source in Clear Lake and flows through the township from section 18 in a northeasterly course until it passes out through section 1.

At an early day, that is at the time of the coming of the white men, Lake township was fairly well timbered. Besides the beautiful groves on sections 7 and 8 and what has always been known as "East Grove," about three miles southeast of the lake, there was considerable native timber in the northern part of the



WILLOW CREEK.

township. The soil seems to be adapted to the growth of both fruit and forest trees, and there are in the township many fine orchards and artificial groves of forest trees.

*Early Settlement* of Lake and Clear Creek townships is so inextricably mixed that it is extremely difficult to definitely separate some of the more prominent. This state of affairs arises from the fact that several of the early settlers had land in what afterward came to be Clear Lake township, although at the time and for some years it was Lake township. For instance James Dickirson is credited to both Lake and Clear Lake townships as a

first settler. It seems clear, however, that Dickirson did settle in Lake prior to anybody else. He settled on section 7 and built the first house in the township there in 1852.

Rice and Allaway came in 1853 or 1854. In 1855 there was quite an immigration. Among those who came that year were, Hiram A. Stiles, Rowland Gardner, Harry Luce, E. A. Tuttle, Andrew Butterfield, William Wilson, Abram Bennett, Peter Parrish, James B. Wood and Peter Meddaugh.

Hiram Stiles settled on section 6, where he remained about five years, when the call of a new frontier prevailed and he moved on. The last known of him he was in Kansas.

Elon A. Tuttle, one of the famous Tuttle brothers of pioneer days, settled on section 7, on forty acres of land he bought of James Dickirson. This was the first land he owned in Lake township although he afterward added to it until he owned a tract of several hundred acres. Associated with his brothers, Marcus and A. B. Tuttle, he entered a claim of 500 acres, and the same season hauled the lumber for his first house from Iowa City, a distance of not less than 150 miles. This was the first frame house in Lake township.

Joseph Wood entered his claim on section 25, of what was at the time Lake township but which afterward became Clear Lake township, being in congressional township 96, range 22. Peter R. Wood, a son of James Wood, was a sergeant in Company B, 32d Iowa. He had the pleasure and honor to die, dressed in Union blue and with his good Enfield rifle giving his country's foes ball for ball on the sanguinary battle field of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. Peace, honor and glory be unto him.

During 1856 Marcus and A. B. Tuttle, Charles Gillespie and Elnathan Crowell located in the township. About the same time Caleb Hubbard and a Mr. Piser settled on the prairie. It was also this year that E. A. Tuttle brought his family from Johnson county. There were also other settlers.

Thomas O. Howard was born in Marlow, N. H., December 13, 1832. In 1856 he married Miss Rosa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Dort. He was a carpenter by trade. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry. At the organization of his company, he was elected orderly sergeant. In 1862 he was promoted to the second lieutenantcy and in 1863 was promoted to first lieutenant, which position he held when his regiment went into action at Pleasant Hill, La., in 1864. It fell to



the lot of Lieutenant Howard to command the skirmishers in front of his regiment and he received special mention for his bravery in that trying position. Later in the engagement he fell mortally wounded. He was taken to the hospital, where he died two days later. Thomas O. Howard was a typical American volunteer soldier. He came from the common walks of life; a carpenter. He entered the service of his country carrying a gun; he died for his country a first lieutenant; he would have creditably filled the office of a general had the exigencies of the services demanded it of him. He was tall, well formed and comely, with a dignified bearing and a winning open countenance! truthful and honest in all his dealings, courageous, brave, firm, yet kind and generous; he was every inch a gentleman and a man. Napoleon would have made him a marshal of France. The Grand Army Post at Clear Lake is called the "Tom Howard Post" in his honor. He left a widow and two orphan children. When the roll of the Tom Howard post is called let some one answer for him as the French grenadier did for Latour De Auvergne; "Dead on the Field of Honor." Thomas O. Howard settled in Lake township in 1857.

James D. Freman was born in Plainfield, Vermont, July 19, 1827, and came to Cerro Gordo county in 1871. At the breaking out of the Civil war, he was living at Chatfield, Minnesota. He enlisted in Company D, 8th Minnesota Infantry in 1862 and for three years wore the blue and carried a gun and knap-sack. The first year of his service was on the Dakota frontier fighting the blood thirsty Sioux. The Sioux having accepted defeat, his regiment was ordered south in 1863. He received his first serious baptism of fire at the great battle of Murfreesboro. After that he was engaged in several great pitched battles besides many minor engagements.

Benjamin Leonard Jr., was born in Niagara county, New York, April 4, 1836. He came to Cerro Gordo county in 1875 and settled in Lake township. The thunder of rebel guns and the bombardment of Fort Sumter had scarcely ceased their reverberations when Leonard shouldered his musket and started to the front, enlisting in the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry twelve days after the rebel victory in Charleston harbor. He served with Pope in his short and inglorious campaign in Virginia and also under McClellan. At the battle of Antietam he received a severe gunshot wound in his right arm which necessitated his honorable discharge.

Charles Brayton, a brother to the wife of Benjamin Leonard,

was born in McHenry county, Illinois in 1838. He went to Wisconsin in 1862 and the same year enlisted in the 31st Wisconsin Infantry. He served his country faithfully for three years, being mustered out with his regiment in 1865. All honor to Charles Brayton, for he was one of his country's defenders in the hour of need.

Sylvester Hill was born in Barford, Stanstead county, Canada, in 1840. Although born under the British flag, he came of good New England stock, his father being a native of New Hampshire and his mother a native of Vermont. He emigrated to Wisconsin in 1859 and in 1864 he enlisted in the 51st Wisconsin Infantry and served to the end of the war a true and faithful soldier of the Union.

*Organic.*—Lake township was one of the three original townships of the county. The first election was held on the first Monday of April, 1857, at the house of James Sirrine at Clear Lake, when the following officers were elected: Marcus Tuttle and H. G. Parker, justices of the peace; Peter P. Wood and Hiram Stiles, constables; Joseph Turner, clerk.

*First Events.*—The first marriage was that of Michael Callanan Jr., to Miss Mary Ann Gray.

The first birth was Joseph Dickirson, son of James Dickirson, who with Joseph Hewitt, were the first white settlers who came to and founded the Clear Lake settlement. This boy, Joseph, was born in May, 1855.

The first death was that of a little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Tuttle, who died January 3, 1857.

The first school in Lake township was taught by Mrs. Lutz at her own home in 1856. The first public school was taught in the winter of 1857-8 on section 9, by E. A. Tuttle.

## CHAPTER XX.

### FALLS TOWNSHIP.

HISTORY OF FALLS TOWNSHIP—FIRST SETTLEMENT BY ELIJAH WILTFONG—THE GREGORY FAMILY—THE VILLAGE OF PLYMOUTH—SHELL ROCK FALLS—ITS FINE WATER POWER.

In an early day Falls township constituted a part of Owen, and it was not until 1856 that it became a geographical division of Cerro Gordo county. As at present constituted it comprises congressional townships 97, range 19 west, and is bounded on the east by Floyd and Mitchell counties, on the north by Worth, on the west by Lime Creek township and on the south by Portland.

The present topography of the township is the product of the Iowan drift, its ancient hills having been leveled and its old-time valleys filled by the action of that mighty glacier. So far as known Falls township contained no important stream prior to the glacial epoch, the Shell Rock being wholly a creature of post-glacial times. Prior to the age of ice the waters which flow in the channel of the Shell Rock found an outlet probably through Lime creek, as there is every reason to believe the Lime was a much larger stream in pre-glacial than in post-glacial times. The Shell Rock dates from the melting of the Iowan glacier and its present channel shows the amount of rock cutting done by the water since that ancient event.

At the time of its first settlement by white men, there was considerable natural timber along the banks of the Shell Rock and in the early days there were sawmills along that stream for the manufacture of the timber into lumber. The saw timber was used up long years ago, but there is still considerable second-growth timber along the Shell Rock. There are also many fine groves of artificial timber in different parts of the township.

Falls township has a surface that is gently underlating, a soil that is for the most part deep and rich. It has from the earliest times been one of the most productive, populous, and im-

portant townships in the county. During the decades of the '50s, the '60s and the '70s its principal agricultural product was wheat, but for the last thirty years stock-raising, dairying and general diversified farming has been the rule.

The Shell Rock river is the second in importance of the streams of Cerro Gordo county. It enters the county in Falls township on section 5 and flows in a generally southeasterly course, crossing sections 8, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 27 and across the corner of 26 to 35 and thence into Portland township. The channel of the Shell Rock is literally a gully grooved out of the solid rock and is capable of furnishing an almost unlimited amount of water power. In the days of the early pioneers it furnished an abundant supply of excellent fish. Falls township is well watered by the Shell Rock and its tributaries which combine to give to the township one of the best natural drainage systems in the county.

Falls township was first settled by Elijah Wiltfong, who came from Indiana in 1853 and settled on the banks of the Shell Rock where the village of Rock Falls now stands. For a pioneer Wiltfong was fairly well blessed with this world's goods and played quite an important part in local affairs along the Shell Rock in early days. He remained only ten years in this locality and then moved on towards the "far off golden west." He finally found his heart's desire on the Pacific coast and with his heart's desire, peace and happiness and "length of days." When Elijah Wiltfong came to Falls township, he was accompanied by his son, Enoch. This son has told the story of the first settlement and early history of Falls township, which will be found in another chapter of this history.

In writing the history of a township, which can at best be but an outline sketch, it is impossible to do little more than give the names and date of settlement of the first pioneers. The only exception that can be made is where the experience of the pioneer is considered typical or where he was a soldier of the Civil war. These are entitled to and will receive something more than a mere passing notice.

Cerro Gordo county was originally settled in three separate colonies: The Clear Lake settlement, the settlement in the valley of the Lime and the settlement along the Shell Rock. The first settler along the Shell Rock was Elijah Wiltfong, who with his family arrived there about August 3, 1853, coming from Laporte, Indiana, to which place he had emigrated from Ohio, the place of



his birth. Wiltfong emigrated to Iowa with three teams and wagons; two ox teams, each team consisting of two yoke of oxen, and one horse team. Mr. Wiltfong drove one of the ox team, one was driven by Enoch his son, a young man of 19, while Mrs. Wiltfong drove the horse team. After the overturning of the lead wagon in the waters of the Shell Rock, the cavalcade succeeded in crossing the steep, rock-cut channel of that stream and after driving about fifty rods from this earliest white man's ford, pitched camp. The next thing was to go into the woods and chop enough logs for a cabin large enough to hold eight people; to build the cabin, to prepare chinks for the walls and split shakes for the roof; then to build a log heap, pile the heap with lime stone, burn the lime for the plastering of the chinks between the logs, then to take scythes, pitchforks and wooden hand rakes and put up hay enough for the stock for the approaching winter. In the meantime catching fish from the well stocked river and shooting plenty of game that abounded in woodland and plain. Mr. Wiltfong at one time killed a fat young bear and at another a big fat elk. This first habitation of white men along the Shell Rock, the cabin built in the summer of 1853, was located on a low eminence, from the foot of which flowed a spring of pure, cold water. Then came on the first winter in the new strange land, and with it deer hunting, getting firewood, tending the stock, and splitting rails for fencing, with an occasional trip to Chickasaw in Chickasaw county for provisions and the mail, a distance of thirty miles by the trail.

The first school was seven miles away at Rock Grove, in Floyd county, and this, young Enoch attended for two months, Miss Sarah Griffith being the teacher. While attending this brief, two months school, young Wiltfong found time to fall in love with his landlady's daughter, propose and get refused. That his heart was not hopelessly broken by the unfortunate termination of his first heartburn, we may believe from the fact that the records show that in 1856, on the 31st day of August, Enoch Wiltfong was married to Miss Julian Hunt, the Rev. Thomas Tenney officiating.

In 1855, the elder Wiltfong laid out the town of Shell Rock Falls. He afterwards engaged in the milling business, operating both a saw and grist mill. Young Wiltfong had charge of the mills for the most part. In 1862 Enoch went to the Pacific coast and the next year he was followed by his father; and so these first

pioneers of the Shell Rock and the first settlers in Falls township pass out of the history of the township and county.

John Myers came in the spring of 1854 and located on section 6.

James Wright purchased a claim on section 17, in the spring of 1854, but sold in the fall of the same year to Lewis Mosher and took another claim on section 5.

Robert Campbell came in October of 1854, and settled on section 16. Here he built a log cabin 14x16 feet. The floor was of puncheon and the roof of shakes. It was in this humble log house that occurred the first marriage, that of George Frederick and Urvida or as it some times appears, Arvilla Campbell; and the first birth in the township, that of Delphina Campbell.

Mahlon Brown settled on section 16 in May of 1854.

George and Peter Clymer came from Allamakee county in the spring of 1854, George settling on section 8 and Peter up near the Worth county line.

As a type of the better class of pioneers who settled Cerro Gordo county during the fifties, we select Richard Morris, who settled in Falls township during the summer of 1854. Mr. Morris was born in the state of Vermont, Bennington county, November 28, 1812, and was married to Miss Fannie Stoddard, also a native of Vermont, in 1833. Richard Morris was born and reared on a pioneer farm and farming was his vocation until he added the trade of carpenter to his life equipment. When they arrived on the banks of the Shell Rock, aside from their team and wagon, their household effects, their children and a pair of stout hearts, he and his wife had nothing in the world, except \$1.60 in the lank wallet of Mr. Morris. This was not a large sum, with which to face the coming winter, keep a family a year and buy a farm with, yet with that sum to start with, Richard Morris did all of these things. He secured employment as a carpenter, on a mill that was being built at Nora Springs. He sowed a patch of buckwheat and planted a small field of corn near Nora Springs and, in October, bought a claim on section 22 Falls township. To pay for his land he was obliged to sell one of his horses and borrow a sum of money at 40 per cent interest. On the land he bought there was a small log house; minus a roof. He split out shakes and covered the house and moved in. His family lived the first winter on buckwheat cakes and mush and milk and johnny cake. In the following spring of 1855, he went sixty miles distant to

Turkey river and bought flour for which he paid \$6 per hundred. Mr. and Mrs. Morris would have made glad the heart of the great reformer, Theodore Roosevelt for they were the parents of ten children.

Chauncy Lugard, an Italian by birth, came from Canada in 1854 and settled on section 25.

Benjamin Sutton, a native of Devonshire, England, entered 400 acres in the township in 1854, but did not permanently settle here until 1857.

Ira Williams, a soldier of the Civil war, came to Falls township from Illinois in 1855 and settled on section 17. Here he built a house out of hay, walls, roof and floor, and lived in it two years. In 1857 he built a log house which he at first covered with bark, but later covered with shakes. In 1859 he sold out and moved into Lincoln township from which place he enlisted in Company C, 37th Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served during the war. He died in Lincoln township in 1877.

Among the other settlers who joined the Shell Rock colony in 1855 were John Morgan who located on section 8, Heman M. Reddington, who also located on section 8, Charles Tenney, who located on section 8, Thomas Perrett, who located on section 27, Charles Johnson, who located on section 17, Edwin Beckwith, who settled on section 36, A. J. Glover, who located in the village of Rock Falls, Horace Gregory, who located on section 12, George Frederick, who located on section 5.

Charles W. Tenney, son of Rev. Thomas Tenney, was one of the first justices of the peace elected on the organization of Falls township. He also held many positions of trust, the highest in rank being member of the state general assembly. He went to the Pacific coast several years ago.

Thomas Perrett was born May 27, 1827, in Somersetshire, England. He belonged to the better class of English yeomen and received a good education. He was reared to agricultural pursuits and learned farming in a country which at that time possessed the best farmers in the world. His sketch will be found in another part of this work.

## THE FIGHTING GREGORYS.

Horace Gregory, the father of the Fighting Gregorys, was born in Delaware county, New York, August 14, 1805, and was married to Miss Sally Vernald March 22, 1829. Twelve years after his marriage he removed to Kane county, Illinois, and emigrated from there to Falls township in 1855. He and his family located on section 12.. After fourteen years residence in Falls township, in 1869, he emigrated to Rock county, Minnesota, where he died in 1873. Although a man of more than ordinary intelligence, character and industry, his greatest claim to remembrance among men lies in his having been the father of the "Fighting Gregorys," so called because of their service in the armies of the Union in the Civil war. No less than five of the sons of Horace Gregory served in the armies of the North, as follows: Thadeus W., Elba S., Horace A., Salathiel D. and Francis M.

Thadeus W. Gregory was born in Delaware county, New York May 6, 1832, came to Iowa with his parents and in 1862 enlisted as a soldier to fight the battles of his country, but did not live to enter the active service. He died a month after his enrollment. Although by an inscrutable providence, he was not permitted to exhibit the red badge of courage on the field of battle, when the final roll call comes Thadeus W. Gregory will answer from the shining rank of heroes who, when their country called in its hour of need, willingly laid their lives upon its altar.

Elba S. Gregory, when the war drums throbbed and his country called for defenders, enlisted in the Iowa Volunteer Cavalry and served faithfully and well until armed resistance on the part of his country's foes had ceased and he received, with his brave regiment, an honorable discharge. Shortly after resuming civil life, he emigrated to Washington territory, now the state of Washington.

Horace A. Gregory enlisted in Company B, 11th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. At the battle of Belmont he received a severe wound and was discharged from the service. As soon as he recovered, he re-enlisted and served his country until the close of the war. After the war he too emigrated to Washington territory, where he became an honored citizen.

Salathiel D. Gregory, the fourth son of Horace Gregory who wore his country's blue and fought to keep his country's flag floating in the blue canopy of heaven, enlisted in Company A,



21st Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until he earned the honor of an honorable discharge from his country's service at the expiration of his enlistment. After leaving the military service he returned to his own county and again took up his residence in Falls township.

Of all the Fighting Gregorys the highest honors fell to Francis M. He was born in Steuben county, New York, April 16, 1839. He went with his father to Illinois and on September 18, 1861, he enlisted in the 8th Illinois Cavalry. His regiment was among those sent to the east for service in the Army of the Potomac. He received his baptism of fire at the second battle of Bull Run at Manassas Junction and was on the firing line and in the charge at Yorktown, Williamsburg, Gettysburg, South Mountain and Antietam, besides more than a score of minor engagements. He was commissioned second lieutenant September 11, 1864, promoted to first lieutenant September 18, 1864, and on December 15, 1864, he was raised to the rank of captain. With his gallant regiment he was honorably discharged July 21, 1865. After his discharge he came north and first settled in Portland, but after a few years he came to Falls township. He was married February 11, 1866, to Miss Maggie J. Smith.

Among those settling in Falls township during the years 1856 1857, 1858 and 1860, were William Sherick, William Wilson, Jacob Frederick, John Claus, Joseph Perrett, B. A. Brown and George A. Morse.

B. A. Brown was at one time postmaster and merchant at Rock Falls. He afterward removed to Clear Lake and served six years as member of the board of supervisors.

William C. Graves was born in Oneida county, New York, January 1, 1841. On the 28th day of August, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, 81st New York Volunteer Infantry. He was engaged in a number of pitched battles including the "Battles of the Wilderness." Finally, on June 3, 1864, in the disastrous assault at Cold Harbor, he was dangerously wounded, being shot in the right shoulder. He was taken to the hospital at Washington where he remained until October, when he obtained a thirty day furlough and went home. On his return to Washington, he was considered no longer fit for military duty and was honorably discharged. Shortly after he left the service, his parents emigrated to Iowa and he came with them and remained with them until 1870,

when he married Miss Elizabeth Holden. In 1873 he located on section 5.

Among the soldiers of the Civil war who have made Falls township their home was Captain Samuel R. Apker, a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born in Lycoming county, July 7, 1834. In December, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, 17th Wisconsin Volunteers. He was mustered in as first lieutenant and a few months later he was promoted to the rank of captain. In July he veteranized and was discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, 1865. He participated in a number of battles, among them being that at Corinth, Atlanta, and the siege of Vicksburg. He marched with Sherman to the sea and during his period of service he led his command in twenty-one general engagements. Following is a reprint from a Madison paper: "The members of Company H, 17th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, presented Captain S. R. Apker with a beautiful gold watch and chain as a token of their love and esteem for him as an officer and a gentleman."

*Organic.*—Falls township was organized as early as December, 1856. The first election was held in April, 1857, at the house of John F. Ford, on section 2, of what afterward became a part of the civil township of Portland. At this election there were thirty-four votes cast for the following named officers: Trustees, Rev. Thomas Tenney, John M. Hunt, Horace Gregory and A. J. Glover; assessor, Frederick Pattee; justices of the peace, George L. Bunce and Charles W. Tenney; clerk, L. S. Eager; constables, John Brown and Robert Campbell.

*First Events.*—The first birth in Falls township was a daughter of Robert and Amanda Campbell, which occurred July 28, 1856. She was named Delphina, and became the wife of Albert Week.

The first marriage was that of Arvilla, or as it sometimes appears in the records, Urvilda, daughter of Robert and Amanda Campbell, and George Frederick; the ceremony taking place at the home of the bride's parents on section 16. The Rev. Thomas Tenney, a pioneer clergyman, officiated and the marriage altar was the interior of a rude log house. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell had the distinction of being not only the parents of the first child born in Falls township, but of presenting the first bride, and their log house, with its severe simplicity, was the scene of the first wedding.

The first death in the township, and the grim specter always stalks close to births and weddings, was that of Thomas Corkerton. He had been married but a few months and his wife was absent on a visit to the old home in Illinois, when he was stricken with fever while boarding at the house of Elijah Wiltfong. He died after a short illness and was buried on his own land, on section 10. His remains were afterwards removed to Plymouth cemetery, where they are still awaiting the time when the sea gives up its dead.

The first sorghum mill was that of Rev. Thomas Tenney. This mill had the old fashioned wooden rollers and a boiling pan of wood lined with sheetiron.

The first military campaign was that made by J. M. Hunt, Elijah Wiltfong, Joseph Perrett, C. W. Tenney and three others, in 1862 at the time of the time of the Sioux war under the leadership of the renowned Little Crow. This expedition from Falls township went as far as Mankato, where they learned of the arrival of a punitive expedition of United States troops and the defeat and retreat of the Indian forces. The expedition returned by way of Forest City, Clear Lake and Mason City, every where informing the people of the situation at the seat of war and thus quieting their fears.

The Methodist Episcopal church held their first service at the stone school house in 1865. Rev. Z. R. Ward organized a society there that fall.

The Free Methodists held their first meeting at the school house in district No. 3. Rev. Thomas La Dice was their first preacher. He organized a class of twenty members.

The German Baptists of Falls township held their first meeting at the school house on section 36, in 1873. Rev. John Crone was the first preacher.

The German Methodists of Falls at first joined a society across the line in Portland township. Rev. R. Figenbaum was the first pastor, in 1870. They afterward met in Rock Falls.

The first Catholic services were held in a private house in Plymouth. Rev. Michael Carolan was their first priest.

*Early Schools.*—The first school in Plymouth was held in a log house owned by Rev. Thomas Tenney. The school was taught by Miss Harriet Tenney, in the winter of 1856-7.

The first school house built in Plymouth was in 1858. C. W. Tenney was the first teacher. Their building was made of granite

and its benches of slabs. It was torn down in 1867 and a stone structure erected in its place.

The first school house built in Rock Falls, which is really the premier colony in the Shell Rock valley, was built in the fall of 1855 and was made of slabs. The first term of school taught in this house was by Miss Julian Hunt, the young lady, it will be remembered, who was married the next year to young Enoch Wiltfong. The second school house was built in 1859. The first teacher in this was Miss Emma Adams. This building was used for school purposes until 1867, when becoming too small for the growing school, it was sold and became a store. A new stone school house was built to replace the one that was sold. Commodore Farington was the first teacher. In 1877 this building was condemned as unsafe and torn down and three terms of school were taught in a store building. The next school house was built in 1878. Duncan Rule was the first teacher. Myra Kling and Ella Hoyt were his assistants.

The first school in district No. 3 was taught by Truman Judson, in 1856 at Edward Beckwith's house on section 36. This school was supported by private subscription. In 1867 Commodore Farington taught school in this district in a dwelling house on section 36. The first school house was built in 1869 on section 36. Helen Carpenter was the first teacher.

The first school in district No. 4 was taught in a granary owned by John Claus, in the summer of 1866, the teacher being Ann A. Redington. The same summer a school house was built on section 3. Belle Rule was the first teacher. This building was torn down in 1881 and a new one built. Miss Bell Lewis was the first teacher.

The first school house in district No. 5 was built in 1874 on section 34. Miss Lela Dougan was the first teacher.

The first school house in district No. 6 was built in 1876 on section 24. Miss Elizabeth Perrett was the first teacher.

The first school in district No. 7 was built in 1874, on section 30, Mary Mahar was the first teacher.

The first school in district No. 8, was held in a building owned by Isaac Lewis and was taught by Miss Lena L. Gardner. The first school house built in the district was built in 1876 on section 1. Miss Anna Teele was the first teacher.



## THE VILLAGE OF PLYMOUTH.

Plymouth village was surveyed and platted in 1858, by Stephen Henderson on land owned by Rev. Thomas Tenney and his son, Chas. W., John Morgan and Levi Shepard also had an interest in this plat. At the time there was a single log house standing on the plat. This first plat was situated on the east quarter of the northeast quarter of section 7, and a few lots on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8. Levi Shepard erected the first building that year and opened a general store. A postoffice was established the next year, with Martin Reddington postmaster. This office was on the mail route from Charles City to Mason City and from Rock Falls to Albert Lea, Minnesota. Martin Reddington kept the first hotel, which he opened in 1859 in a building 26x42, built partly of logs and partly frame. This was called the Plymouth house. Mr. Reddington also opened the first blacksmith shop in 1860. Old Plymouth finally petered out. About all there ever was to it was a store opened and abandoned, a postoffice first in a private house and then in a tavern and a blacksmith shop, and Martin Reddington was the whole thing. And then the Chicago, Burlington & Northern Railroad came through the county and a new Plymouth was laid out and new hopes born. The new Plymouth was surveyed on land owned by Rev. Thomas and Chas. W. Tenney and Charles Gracie, and situated on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 5 and a few lots on section 6. This plat was recorded December 23, 1870. The first building was erected by Geo. Warde and was used as a store. It was afterward remodeled by Benj. Kenyon, made into a hotel and called The Plymouth House. The first hotel in the town, however, was opened by Captain R. A. Wareham in 1870. The first drug store was opened in 1875 by Dr. G. H. Waller. The first blacksmith shop in the new Plymouth was opened by Martin Redington in 1870. The first wagon shop was opened in 1870 by Truman S. Hill. The first furniture shop was opened in 1878 by Hill in company with T. A. Barnes. The first warehouse was built in 1870 by L. A. Page, who began buying grain that fall. The first elevator was built in 1878 by Bassett Hunting and Company. The first sorghum mill was started in 1874 by George Daney. The Plymouth mill was begun in 1874 and completed the next year by Fred Ehlers. The building was 36x50, three stories high and

contained three run of stone. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad was completed to this point in 1870 and a station built. R. G. Carter was the first agent. The postoffice was moved from the old town in 1871, at which time Captain Wareham was postmaster. The Plymouth Cemetery Association was organized in 1880 and five acres of land purchased. The trustees were J. N. Malsbury, L. A. Page and Joseph M. Pennell; president, C. W. Tenney; secretary, Dr. G. H. Waller; treasurer, R. A. Wareham.

#### ROCK FALLS.

This village was laid out and platted by Elijah Wiltfong in 1855. It is located on the northeast quarter of section 21. Soon after platting he sold to A. J. Glover, who the same year erected a sawmill and opened a small store. L. S. Eager opened the first general store in 1856. The postoffice was established in 1855 and was on the road from Charles City to Mason City. A. J. Glover was the first postmaster. When first established the postoffice, like the village, was called Shell Rock Falls, but when the railroad was built through, the station was named Rock Falls and the name of the postoffice was also changed. The hotel, tavern, inn or "public house" was opened by David Johnson in 1855. He opened his new place with a dance. As there was no business for a hotel, he closed up in a few months and went back to Delaware county. Jesse Clausen was the first blacksmith. He came in 1855, but closed his shop in a short time. The next shop was opened in 1856 by Frederick Drew.

One of the best water powers in the state is located at Rock Falls. When Elijah Wiltfong first camped on the banks of the Shell Rock river, he beheld a perpendicular fall of the river over a solid lime rock ledge of about four feet. It was this fall of water that decided him to locate where he did. Since Wiltfong's time this four foot fall has by improvement been increased to twenty feet, making it one of the most potent water powers in Iowa. The first sawmill on this water power was built by A. J. Glover in 1855. There followed some changes in ownership until the mill finally, as has been stated elsewhere, passed into the hands of Wiltfong, who added a grist mill. Many changes in ownership and improvement have followed since then. There is no sawmill there now, but one of the best flouring mills in this part of the state. The first creamery was started in 1882 by Carney and Company. The first

elevator was built in 1878 by R. M. Todd. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern railway was completed to Shell Rock Falls in 1872 and a depot built. A. W. Weller was the first agent.

The town of Shell Rock Falls was incorporated in August, 1882. The first election was held August 8th of that year, in the school house, and the following named officers elected to serve until the following March: Mayor, R. M. Todd; councilmen, W. C. Owens, R. Kinney, W. C. Baker, B. A. Brown, L. Sumner, and John Bliem; recorder, A. W. Hardwick.

The first church organization in the town was the Congregational, which was perfected in 1856, by Rev. Thomas Tenney.

A union Sunday school was organized at an early day with David Butts as first superintendent.

The Congregational church was built in 1867. N. W. Cutter, member of congress from Connecticut, generously donated a quarter section of land to aid in its construction.

The Methodist Episcopal held their first services in the school house about 1865. Elder Ward of Mason City was the first preacher.

A union Sunday school was organized at the church in February, 1882, by Rev. D. E. Skinner of the American Sunday School Union.

The cemetery at Shell Rock Falls was laid out in 1865. One acre of land was purchased of David Butts and half an acre was donated by C. W. Tenney. David Butts was the first to be buried there.

With this altogether inadequate sketch we must close the history of one of the most important townships in Cerro Gordo county. This is not pretended to be a history of the township. A real history would require ten times more space than we have at our command.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### PORTLAND TOWNSHIP.

HISTORY OF PORTLAND TOWNSHIP—FIRST SETTLEMENT AND  
EARLY SETTLERS—THE PORTLAND MILL—THE VILLAGE OF PORT-  
LAND.

Portland township is bounded on the east by Floyd county, on the north by Falls township, on the west by Mason township and on the south by Owen township, and comprises the territory embraced in congressional township 96, range 19 west.

The township is well watered by Lime creek and its tributaries. Lime creek enters the township on section 18 and flows in a general southeasterly direction, leaving the township from section 36, where it enters Floyd county. The Shell Rock river cuts off a small corner of Portland, passing through sections 1 and 12 in the northeast corner of the township.

Portland, from the valley of the Lime to its southern border, presents a very fair specimen of the general topography of Cerro Gordo county in pre-glacial times. For reasons, which can never be known, the Kansan and Iowan glaciers seem to have practically terminated at Lime creek in Portland township or at least thinned out to such an extent as not to plane down the pre-glacial hills and fill up the pre-glacial valleys, as glacial action seems to have been exceedingly light from Lime creek clear through to the southern boundary of the county. This region of slight glacial action includes the south half of Portland, and the eastern half of Owen and Dougherty townships. As a result of the peculiar action of the glaciers, the northern half of Portland has the characteristic soil and topography of the drift area, while to the south of the Lime the soil and topography are what they were before the coming of the great ice sheets. To the north of the Lime valley the surface is level or only slightly rolling and the soil is a black



sandy loam. To the south of the Lime valley, the surface is rough and hilly and the soil, except in the valleys, is inclined to be clayey. In point of actual productiveness, there does not seem to be any very great difference.

For a prairie township, Portland township was, originally, quite well timbered. There were Hackberry and Owen's groves and in the extreme northeast was Bunce's grove, while there was considerable timber along the banks of the Lime and the Shell Rock. While much of the natural timber has been cut away, there has been a comparatively large amount of artificial timber planted and the whole surface of Portland now presents the appearance of a vast garden interspersed with groves of timber.

Perhaps the most celebrated feature of Portland township is what is known as the "Clay Banks." This is a weathered clay escarpment of the Lime and is an outcropping of the Devonian age richly abounding in the fossils of what were living animals when the world was comparatively young and its climate was one of eternal summer. When the animals were living in the flesh whose fossils are now found in such abundance in the Portland "Clay Banks," the climate of what is now Cerro Gordo county was the same as that of Australia, Central Africa and equatorial America today.

*Early Settlement.*—First settlement by the white race in Portland township was made by Anson C. Owen, in 1853, who settled on section 31. He settled in Owen's Grove and realizing the value of timber land in a prairie country, bought up the whole body of timber and held it for speculative purposes. When Alonzo Wilson came in 1855 and settled in Owen township on the south edge of Owen's Grove he found all the timber in Owen's possession. Wilson had plenty of money, was a shrewd Yankee and was not to be over reached. When he found that Owen would not sell him any of his timber land, Wilson proceeded to buy up a cordon of quarter sections clear around Owen's Grove. In the course of time Owen wanted to go to farming and found himself surrounded by the Wilson holdings and Wilson would sell none of his prairie land. In the end Owen was willing to compromise and exchange a part of his timber land for a part of Wilson's prairie land, much to the benefit of both.

In point of time, the second settler in Portland township was A. S. Felt, a single man, who came June 7, 1855, and settled on

section 18. Mr. Felt was not married until 1857, at which time he was wedded to Miss Mary L. Whittaker of Osage, Iowa.

The second family to settle in Portland was that of William Felt, who came in October, 1855, and took up land on section 19. The family, however, lived in Mason township until the following August. By this time Mr. Felt had a cabin built and ready for occupancy and the family moved in.

Among the other settlers who came in 1855 were, G. L. Bunce, Horace L. and Wallace Gregory, Louis Boomhover, Henry Senior, John and Samuel Brown and David Reed.

Of these, George L. Bunce remained until 1861, at which time he removed to Mason City and became the proprietor of the Commercial House.

Wallace Gregory died in 1857 and was buried in the cemetery near Mr. Reed's place in Floyd county.

Louis Boomhover enlisted in 1863 in the 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served his country until the close of the war. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Pleasant Hill. After the war he returned to Cerro Gordo county, but soon after removed with his family to Illinois.

Henry Senior rented his farm in 1863 and removed to Mason City, where he engaged in the boot and shoe business until 1873, when he returned to his farm.

Among those who settled in Portland during 1856 were Amos Pardee, John and Samuel Jeffords, John M. Hunt, and John Ford.

John Jeffords settled on the southeast quarter of section 7 and Samuel on the southwest quarter of section 8. They built a log cabin and lived there about a year and sold out. Samuel went to Forest City in Winnebago county, where he died. John moved into Mason City and worked at the carpenter's trade.

As county judge of Floyd county John M. Hunt helped in the organization of Cerro Gordo county in 1855. In the spring of 1856 he located in Portland township on section 1. Nine years later, in 1865, he sold out and went to Kansas. He afterwards removed to the Pacific coast, settling in Oregon.

John P. Ford settled on section 2. He was a single man at the time, but married soon after. He enlisted in Company B, 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864.

Amos Pardee, accompanied by John West, came to Cerro Gordo county in 1855. He purchased 200 acres of land on sec-

tion 34, Portland township. He returned to Chicago and brought out his family in 1856 and settled on his farm. Poor health, however, induced him to abandon farming and he returned to Chicago with his family in 1858. In 1861 he enlisted in Company D, 8th Illinois Cavalry, and served three years. After his discharge he returned to Chicago and shortly afterward returned to Iowa.

In 1857 Isaac Trevett, his two married sons, Frank and George Trevett, and a son-in-law, James Clark, all settled in Portland.

In 1858 Demos Cutler settled on section 25. He remained but a few years and then removed to Floyd county.

Benjamin Frost and his son, William Frost, settled in Portland in 1861.

In the years 1864 and '65, the following settlers came to Portland: S. Meacham, John G. Bailey, Samuel Buckingham and A. J. Burlingham.

Mr. Meacham enlisted in September, 1861, in the 8th Illinois Cavalry and served three years. He was mustered out in 1864 and came to Iowa, settling on section 34 in Portland township.

John G. Bailey enlisted in the 95th Illinois Infantry, Company H, in 1862 and served three years, or until the close of the war. He was mustered out in 1865 and came to Iowa, settling on section 33, Portland township.

Abner R. Stillson settled on section 33, Portland township, in 1866. He enlisted in 1861 in Company A, 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served fifteen months, when he was discharged on account of disability caused by a gunshot wound received at the battle of Gainsville. Abner Stillson was married to Harriet, daughter of John G. and Phebe Bailey. Mr. Stillson was during his lifetime one of the Republican leaders of Cerro Gordo county. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He died a few years since.

Probably the most prominent citizen Portland has yet produced, is Hon. M. E. Bitterman, who settled here in March, 1870. Mr. Bitterman, besides holding most of the offices in the township, served four years in the general assembly of the state, where he had a high standing for his sagacity and honesty as a lawmaker. For a full account of Mr. Bitterman's life and public services, see his biographical sketch in another part of this work.

Among others who came to Portland in 1870 were Daniel W. Haynes and John Bishop, Mr. Haynes settling on section 13 and Mr. Bishop on section 14.

John Bishop enlisted in 1862, in Company I, 76th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving one year, when he was discharged on account of physical disability.

A. W. Mullan came to the village and the township of Portland in 1872, where he engaged in the mercantile business and also received the appointment as postmaster. Mr. Mullan enlisted in the 28th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Company B, in 1862. He served until the close of the war in 1865, when he was mustered out of the service. He returned to Wisconsin and resumed work at the carpenters trade. In 1870 he came to Mason City and worked at his trade until 1872, when he came to Portland village.

In 1871 H. S. Sabin and Samuel Spatts settled in the township.

One of Portland's prominent citizens during his life time was L. M. Van Aiken, who settled in the township in 1872.

*Organic.*—Portland township was organized in 1869. The first township officers were: Trustees, J. J. Ford, A. J. Burlingham and Joseph Forbes; clerk, F. C. Trevett; justices of the peace, H. G. McGregor and George Fish.

*Portland Mill.*—Portland flouring mill was built in 1870 by James T. Graham at a cost of \$10,000, but was greatly improved and remodeled at different times afterward. It passed through a long succession of owners and was at times valued at \$20,000 and \$30,000. The mill reached its climax in value and efficiency under the ownership and personal management of H. E. Francisco in the decade of the '90s, at which time it had all of the latest processes for first-class milling. The mill, however, began to decline in value immediately after its sale by Francisco and is at present, 1910, but little more than a ruin.

*The Cheese Factory.*—In 1879 a cheese factory was erected and put in operation in the village of Portland by James Parker. It was a comparatively large structure, being 30x60, besides an engine room; and cost about \$4,000. It was built of stone and great hopes were entertained of its success, and for a few years it did do a paying business, but it, like the mill, succumbed to adverse conditions and finally died out.

*Early Religious Events.*—The pioneers of Portland township were, on the whole, a religious people and continued to serve the



God of their fathers. The first sermon preached in the township was delivered by Rev. Holbrook, a Methodist minister, in a log school house on section 1, in 1856. The Baptists and United Brethren each had church organizations at one time and so did the Evangelical Association. Their first class leader was J. J. Long, afterward auditor of Cerro Gordo county.

*Educational.*—As long ago as 1856, the people in the southeastern part of the township erected a log school house. The school house was built in the fall and in the ensuing winter the first term of school in the township was taught here. The first pedagogue was Truman Judson. Among the pupils of that first school were Isaac, Adaline and Lucinda Reed, Samuel and Ellis Brown, four children of Mr. Williams, two of Mr. Bunce's and three of John Brown's.

*First Events.*—The first death was that of Wallace McGregor, who died in the spring of 1857.

The first birth was Sarah, daughter of John and Ann Brown, which occurred in August, 1855.

The first marriage was that of Mitchell Jackson and Sylva Reed, a daughter of David Reed. The ceremony was preformed by Rev. Meade at the home of the bride.

#### VILLAGE OF PORTLAND.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company put in a side track on section 18 and in 1878 A. S. Felt laid out a portion of the southeast quarter of said section into town lots and gave to the town, he hoped to see spring into existence, the name of Portland, presumably in honor of the township in which it was located. Mr. Felt certainly did his share towards making the prospective metropolis a place of beauty and a success in other ways. Among other commendable things done by Felt, he set out a large number of shade trees and donated the land, furnished and hauled the stone for the building and contributed \$1,000 towards the cheese factory. For a short time prospects seemed bright for the new town of Portland, but alas and alack! as the days and weeks and months and years came and went, the fond hopes withered and the prospects faded and finally vanished, and today the once flourishing little town of Portland is but little more than a way station on the railway and a memory in the minds of men. Of all that

was once, there is little more left than a store, postoffice and an elevator. Nora Springs on one side and Mason City, only four miles away, on the other, sapped away the life of Portland.. The trees Felt planted are still there and shade a few cottages. The dismantled mill is there and so is the water power, but that is about all.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### MT. VERNON, LINCOLN AND GRIMES.

HISTORY OF MT. VERNON TOWNSHIP—FIRST SETTLERS—DIFFICULTY OF SECURING ORGANIZATION—LINCOLN TOWNSHIP—EARLY SETTLEMENT—INDUSTRIES—GRIMES TOWNSHIP—EARLY HISTORY—THE RAILROAD—THORNTON—MESERVEY.

Mt. Vernon township comprises congressional township 95, range 21 west. It is bounded on the north by Lake, on the west by Union, on the south by Pleasant Valley and on the east by Bath. The soil of this township is as good as any in the county and yields heavy crops of all farm products peculiar to this region.

The Beaver Dam creek enters the township on section 7 and flows in a southeasterly direction, leaving the township from section 36. Most of the township of Mt. Vernon has a fair natural drainage, although artificial drainage by means of the drain tile has been largely resorted to with the usual beneficial results. The western part of the township lies within the limits of the Altamont moraine and the surface is therefore somewhat uneven; but there is nowhere any wash and every where the soil is rich and productive. Natural timber in Mt. Vernon is a wholly negligible quantity. The lack of natural timber has, however, been largely made up for by the extensive planting of artificial timber in the form of windbreaks, woodlots, etc. Much more timber could be planted at a profit. Land planted to the right kind of timber pays even before it begins to yield wood products by the higher ratio of increase in value. An acre of land planted to black walnut fifty years ago, would, at the most conservative estimate, be worth \$1,000 at the present time. This would amount to an annual rental for the fifty years of \$20 per annum. It would be extremely difficult to find a single acre of land in Mt. Vernon township that has furnished an annual rental of \$5 on the average for the last fifty years.

*Settlement.*—Mt. Vernon, being remote from market and the larger of the early settlements, did not attract the attention of the early immigrants and there was not a single permanent settler in the township before 1869.

Eleven years before the first permanent settlement, to wit, in 1858, Edwin Nichols, active in quite early history of Clear Lake, came into the township and located a farm. On this farm he broke 9 acres of prairie sod and on the same in 1860, he sowed wheat, thus gaining the honor of raising the first crop and making the first improvements in the township. Nichols continued to make im-



BOATING ON BEAVER DAM.

provements until in 1866 he built a house on his farm, which was the first house in the township. Nichols did not live on his Mt. Vernon farm, but rented it to others.

Edwin Nichols merits more than passing mention, not only because he was the real first pioneer of Mt. Vernon township, but because of his achievements along other lines. He was born in the old Bay State, March 7, 1827. In 1852 he became an Argonaut and went to California, where he remained for two years, or until 1854. Having obtained a pretty generous share of the Golden Fleece, he returned to Wisconsin and did what all sane healthy



men ought to do; which is to say, got married. He was married at Portage City, in May, 1856, to Miss Elizabeth Hendrickson. He came to Cerro Gordo county in 1858 and in 1862 enlisted in the 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Company B, and served three years under the stars and stripes, fighting the battles of his country, as his ancestors had done at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. After the war he returned to Clear Lake, but found his health too badly broken to engage in any kind of business. In 1880 he moved on to his Mt. Vernon farm. It ought also to be stated that when Mr. Nichols came to Cerro Gordo county, he came in company with Oscar Stevens. These two brought with them the machinery for a steam sawmill which they put in operation at Clear Lake. After two years operation Nichols sold out his interest in the mill to Stevens.

After Nichols, R. T. Lane was the next to make improvements in Mt. Vernon township, who came in 1869. Mr. Lane was the first permanent settler in the township. He was a man of character and influence and was an important figure in the early history of Mt. Vernon township.

In 1871 Scribner Chadbourn, David R. Babcock and John Hawks settled in the township, and in 1872 Mr. Schafer settled on section 31.

*Organic.*—For many years the territory now called Mt. Vernon township was attached to Mason and Lake townships, and so well satisfied were the people of Mason City with this arrangement that they opposed every effort of the people of township 95, range 21 west, to secure their independence. The petitions of the people of Mt. Vernon for township organization were rendered nugatory by the remonstrances of the more influential citizens of Mason City. At last the electors of township 95, range 21, met in a township convention and formulated their grievances and demands. The grievances were listed in a long preamble and their demands in a set of resolutions. Among other complaints the preamble set forth that the roads of the territory contained in township 95, range 21, were neglected; that the greater part of the taxes levied for road improvement in said township were wrongfully diverted to use in Lake and Mason townships where the roads were of little use to the complainants. Also that a portian of township 95, range 21, had been left without a road supervisor, thus depriving the people of their right to work out their road taxes and obliging

them to pay the same in cash. There was also bitter complaint about the unfair management of the schools. There was much more of just complaint. The convention therefore resolved that "We, the undersigned electors of congressional township 95, range 21 west, feel that we have the right and, in justice, ought to have a new civil township," etc.

The petition to board of supervisors, together with the preamble and resolutions, were signed by David R. Babcock, Richard T. Lane, F. W. Latham, E. O. Gregory, S. Chadbourn, A. G. Babcock, C. R. McFarlin, George Tipp, Mathias Schaeffer, James E. Hetland, James W. Lightfoot, G. W. Babcock, E. J. Rosencrans, A. M. McFarland, Andrew Pulford, W. K. Winter, M. S. Kennison, Peter Jones, W. A. Geer, W. C. Bray, Joseph W. Barlow, Barnard Campbell, Frank Brown, F. Cookman, E. R. Root, C. A. W. West, A. J. Livingston and P. T. Hanson.

This petition was granted by the board June 4, 1878, and the territory embraced in congressional township 95, range 21 west, was set apart as a civil township and given the name of Mt. Vernon. The first election was held in the school house on section 11, October 8, 1878, and resulted in the election of the following named officers:

Trustees, M. Kennison, R. T. Lane, Barnard Campbell; clerk, C. R. McFarlin; assessor, Ellis Barlow; justices of the peace, W. R. Winter and Barnard Campbell; constables, D. R. Babcock and William Bray; road supervisor, C. R. McFarlin. When the polls were closed, the judges of election, E. O. Gregory, R. T. Lane and C. R. McFarlin, cast lots to decide the respective length of terms the trustees elect were to serve, and thus Barnard Campbell was chosen for the term of three years, R. T. Lane, two years and M. Kennison, one year. C. R. McFarlin was appointed to deliver the returns to the county auditor, which he did October 9, 1878. The first assessment showed the valuation of real estate to be \$113,039, and the personal property \$5,943.

*First Events.*—The first marriage was that of George Babcock to Miss Abbie A. Lane. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Milton Franklin.

The first birth in the township was that of Anna, daughter of R. T. Lane and his wife Amanda, June 25, 1874.

The first death occurred in the spring of 1874. It was the

wife of Jonathan Brown. Mary, a daughter of David R. Babcock, died in the fall following. This was the second death.

*Early Schools.*—The first school taught in Mt. Vernon township was in the home of R. T. Lane and the teacher was Mrs. Lane. The only pupils were Harriet L., Abbie A., and Petronellia Lane, the children of the teacher. This was while Mr. Lane still lived in the house built by Edwin Nichols. The second term was also taught by Mrs. Lane, but this term was taught in the Lane home on section 29. In their school were four pupils, two of Mrs. Lane's children and two of Samuel Johnson's. The first school was taught in 1869, the year of the arrival of the Lane family in the township.

The first school house in the township was built in 1872 on the section line between sections 2 and 3. The work was done by Oscar Stevens, the one time partner of Edwin Nichols. The first teacher here was Miss Henrietta Sirrine of Clear Lake.

*The Railroad.*—The Mason City & Ft. Dodge Railroad was built in 1887 and from that time until the township was fully settled up, settlement increased rapidly. The population in 1880 was 266. In 1905 the population had increased to 587, or more than 100 per cent in twenty-five years.

There is but one railway station in Mt. Vernon township. This is Burchinal. It contains a store, blacksmith shop, school house, elevator, etc.

#### LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

Union and Lake townships once divided the territory of what is now Lincoln township between them, but in 1861 the board of supervisors took the land from Mason and Lake comprised in township 97, range 21 west, and organized it into a civil township and gave it the name of the great Emancipator, Lincoln. This township is bounded on the east by Lime Creek township, on the north by Worth county, on the west by Grant township and on the south by Lake township. It lies within the limits of the Altamont moraine and its surface is somewhat uneven like the rest of that region, and like the other portions of that region it is possessed of a deep rich soil. In fact, Lincoln is one of the most fertile parts of Cerro Gordo county. It is well watered by the

Lime and Calamus creeks. There is first-class water power on Lime creek. Originally Lincoln was quite well timbered, and there is still some natural timber; but much of this has been cut down by the settlers.

*Early Settlement.*—Lincoln township was among the first of the townships to be settled, Abel Clark settling on land on what is now Lincoln township as long ago as 1854.

Ira Williams was the next settler. He came in May, 1856.

During the same year Gabriel Pence and his son John came from Jackson county and bought several hundred acres of land in the northwest part of Lincoln, and in May of 1857, settled on section 6 and 7, and his two married sons settled near by.

In 1859 Richard Osborn and Milton Goodell settled in the township, Osborn on section 5 and Goodell on section 9. Goodell was a single man, and on the breaking out of the war he enlisted. He was in the ill-fated Red River expedition under General Banks, and was wounded and taken prisoner. He was sent to a hospital and died from the effects of his wounds.

George Goodell settled in the township in 1860, as did also B. G. Richardson.

Thomas Law Sr., and Thomas Law Jr., settled in the township in 1863. They were both born in Scotland.

During the year 1866 Emory Osgood Thompson, Amos Thomas, James Ferrier and C. H. Phillips all settled in the township. Thompson and Thomas were both soldiers in the Civil war. Thompson enlisted in the 57th Illinois Infantry. He was under fire at the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh, and was discharged at the end of one year's service on account of physical disability. Thomas enlisted in 1864, serving in the 11th Minnesota Infantry, Company K. He was mustered out with his regiment at the close of the war.

C. H. Phillips and James Ferrier each came with his family in 1867. This same year came C. W. Fuller and H. J. Willis. Fuller was a Union soldier, having enlisted in the 4th New York Heavy Artillery, Company F. He served under Grant and Meade, from the battle of the Wilderness until the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.

In 1868 W. H. Moffett and D. Taylor settled in the township with their families. Moffett served through the war, from 1861 to 1866, in the 4th Wisconsin Infantry, Company A.



Rev. H. H. Shields was stationed in Lincoln township in 1867, as a United Brethren pastor. He was so enamored with the country that he gradually drifted into agricultural pursuits and became a permanent fixture.

*Organic.*—August 20, 1861, the clerk of the board of supervisors issued a call for the first election on the second Tuesday in October. The voters met at the house of John Russell; Gabriel Pence was chosen chairman; John Pence and James L. Fry, judges. This election resulted as follows: Gabriel Pence, supervisor; A. W. Pence, John Pence and Abel Clark, trustees; James Speers, clerk; Gabriel Pence, assessor; James Fry and Ira Williams, justices of the peace; George Pence and Abel Pence, constables.

*Schools.*—The first school was taught by Nancy Williams in 1857, in the house of Mr. Williams. The pupils were the three daughters and one son of John Russell, two of Mr. Robinson's, three of Abel Clark's, and five of Mr. Williams', also a son of Henry L. Brown.

The first teacher in district No. 2 was Mrs. John Law in 1865.

The first teacher in district No. 3, was Miss Ellen E. Willis, in 1869, who had an enrollment of fourteen pupils.

The first teacher in district No. 7, was Miss Alice Cobb, later Mrs. Andrew Brown. She had about twenty pupils enrolled.

Rock Post Office was established in 1863. Gabriel Pence was the first postmaster.

The first burying ground in Lincoln township was located on the northwest quarter of section 5, and was known as the Osborn Cemetery. This old burying ground was abandoned years ago, and the bodies which had reposed there were all removed and buried elsewhere. The present cemetery is located on section 8. The first person to be buried in this God's Acre, was George Clymer, who died in 1871.

Lincoln township has always been inhabited by religiously inclined people, and there has been at all times within its borders, either preaching or Sabbath school, or both.

*Industries.*—The largest creamery and cheese factory in the county, (18x24, and two and a half stories high) was built in Lincoln township in 1883, by S. H. C. Class and John Johns. It was

built on section 9, at a point where a large stream gushes out with a large steady stream of almost ice cold, pure spring water. The amount of butter and cheese which has been produced here runs into the tens of thousands of pounds, and has added greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the township.

One of the finest mills in the whole county is located in Lincoln township. It is called the Lincoln mill. It is located on the right bank of Lime creek, which furnishes it a nine-foot head. The mill was begun in 1879, by N. C. Carpenter, but was not completed until 1882. It is run as a custom mill. It is 26x40, and two stories high, besides wheel house, and contains three run of buhrs. The power is derived from a large turbine wheel.

#### GRIMES TOWNSHIP.

This township comprises congressional township 94, range 22 west. It is bounded on the north by Union township, on the west by Hancock county, on the south by Franklin county, and on the east by Pleasant Valley township. It is the southwesternmost township in Cerro Gordo county. Grimes township is located within the region covered by the Altamont moraine and its topography is typical of that region. There are many undrained basins which are ponds during spring and fall, as well as during years of excessive or abnormal precipitation. These depressions are alternated by mound like hills and long ridges. In other parts there are extensive sloughs with surrounding flat lands. The soil of the township on the whole, is deep and rich, and corn, oats, barley and potatoes yield abundantly. The soil of the uplands is a sandy loam, sometimes mixed with gravel. These uplands are fertile and produce good crops on their very summits. These uplands are composed partly of the detritus of the Wisconsin ice sheet, and partly of the masses of local soil pushed and shoved into hills and ridges by that glacier. The depressions are parts of the broken furrows from which the material of the hills and ridges was plowed up by the resistless force of the moving ice. There are two small unimportant streams which flow in a southeasterly direction. These and their valleys furnish good avenues for natural drainage. Surface artificial drainage of wet lands by mains of drain tile has been resorted to in many parts, with the usual beneficial results. Grimes township has, from an early

time in its history, been noted for its cattle, and some of the finest herds in the county have in the past and still have their habitat in that township.

*Early Settlement.*—Owing to its remote location, and, for a great number of years, its isolation from the facilities for transportation afforded by the railroad, Grimes township was the last of the townships of Cerro Gordo county to be settled, and the same causes operated in retarding its increase in population even after its first settlement. The first settler was Lorenzo Pratt, who came in 1869, and settled on section 30. It was seven years before there was another settler in the township. This was Henry Prescott, who came in 1876 and settled on section 35. Three years more passed before Grimes received any further accessions to its population from the outside world, and then the third settler came in the person of Peter Severts, who settled on section 29. The same year John H. Hunter made settlement, but remained but a short time. During the year 1880 there were several additional settlers, among whom were Charles A. Winter, George Beck, S. S. Sanford, Jonathan Mann and A. H. Prescott. One can form some conception of the slow growth in population from the fact that in 1882 at the election called to vote on the adoption of the prohibitory amendment to the constitution there were but eleven votes cast, nine for and two against the amendment.

There is no evidence to show that Grimes township contained many more than the eleven electors who cast their ballots, at the time of its organization. In 1880 a petition signed by eleven electors of the township was addressed to the board of supervisors asking that congressional township 94, range 22, be organized into a civil township. The names of the petitioners are: S. S. Severts, D. S. Severts, L. Pratt, J. H. Hunter, S. S. Sanford, George Bray, Henry Prescott, Jesse Prescott, C. L. Prescott, W. H. Duart, J. Mann.

This petition was granted by the board, and an election was ordered for the purpose of electing township officers and for the organization of the civil township. The election was ordered to be held at the residence of J. H. Hunter on section 33. The following named persons were named as the judges of the election: J. H. Hunter, S. Pratt and Henry Prescott. The new township was given the name of Grimes in honor of Governor James W. Grimes.

At the election which was held in April, 1880, the following officers were elected: S. S. Sanford, George Beck and Jonathan Mann, trustees; J. H. Hunter, clerk; Henry Prescott, assessor; Lorenzo Pratt, justice of the peace; A. H. Prescott, constable.

The first school in Grimes township was held, in the house afterward occupied by C. A. Winter, in the winter of 1879-80. The first teacher was Jonathan Mann. Since that time good graded schools have been established in Thornton and Meservey, and the country schools have received their full share of attention and rank with other country schools of the county.

For the next seven years after the organization of the township, Grimes made but slow progress in the way of settlement. Although the land was of good quality and cheap, it was a long way from market, and there was plenty of good, cheap land in Cerro Gordo and adjoining counties, that was in much nearer proximity to the railroads than that of Grimes township. In the year 1887, however, the Mason City & Fort Dodge Railway was built, which passed diagonally through the township. This presented an entirely different aspect to affairs in Grimes. With the coming of the railroad, there also came an influx of new settlers, and the price of land began a rise which has never ceased from that day to this, and is destined to go even higher and higher.

The new railroad established a station at Meservey in the extreme southwestern corner of the county and township, and another at Swaledale not far from the township line in Pleasant Valley township. Neither of these places, however, was satisfactory to a large number of the people of Grimes, and a station was demanded at Thornton or where Thornton now is. J. S. Knapp put in a siding at a cost to himself of \$500 and built a warehouse the same year of the arrival of the railroad. The railroad company refused to make a station at Thornton, as it already had a station, four miles distant, at Swaledale. The people, however, were not to be cheated out of a station, at least without a fight. They accordingly petitioned the railroad commission for a station to be established at their place. The railroad commission set a date, heard the evidence on both sides, examined the situation, and in the end ordered a station to be established. As soon as the station was established, Knapp put in a lumber yard, a hotel and store, elevator and coal sheds.

The Thornton *Enterprise* was established by Horace Greeley in 1890. A man named Sherman bought the paper in 1907 and kept it for a few years, when it again changed hands.



There are four religious denominations represented in Thornton, the Methodist Episcopal, the Baptist, the German Lutheran, and the Danish Evangelical.

The town of Thornton was incorporated in 1890. The first mayor was J. D. Barlow and he was his own successor. The first council was composed of A. C. Bailey, H. M. Johnson, George E. Downie, James Powers and C. F. Alberty. J. D. Barlow opened the first store in 1888 and the bank in 1891. The population of Thornton in 1905 was 293.

Meservey is a small town in the southwestern part of Grimes township. It has a postoffice, lumber yard, newspaper and a small bank. The population of Meservey in 1905 was 234. The Meservey *Messenger* was founded by Joseph Moore, who is the present postmaster.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### LIME CREEK TOWNSHIP.

#### HISTORY OF LIME CREEK TOWNSHIP—ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT —ITS EARLY SCHOOLS—RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

Lime Creek township is bounded on the east by Falls township, on the north by Worth county, on the west by Lincoln township and on the south by Mason township. As a civil township it comprises the territory of congressional township 97, range 20 west.

Originally Lime Creek was fairly well timbered and partly on that account and partly because Lime creek gave it an abundance of water and partly because of the natural beauty of its scenery, the township was among the first to be settled by white men. Lime creek, which is the most important stream in the county enters the township on section 19 and flows through it in a southeasterly direction making its exit from section 34 into Mason township. It was along this stream that the earliest settlements in the township were made. In some places the valley of the Lime slopes gently back from the waters edge to the prairie beyond; in others there is a precipitous rocky escarpment from a few feet to fifty feet in height. In some of its stretches the stream flows through a treeless region; in others through groves of timber. Where once the buffalo, the deer, the elk and the wolf wandered at will along its banks, herds of cattle, flocks of sheep and numberless swine now find an abundance of forage; and where the tepee of the Siouan or the wigwam of Algonquin housed its copper-colored tenants, are now the spacious farm houses and great red barns of the white man.

*Early Settlement.*—The first white men to settle in Lime Creek township were David and Edward Wright, who came sometime in the month of September, 1853, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 28. The story is told of how Mrs. Wright once killed a

deer with a hatchet. The deer in trying to escape from her husband had become mired in the creek. The Wrights resided in the township for several years but finally moved away, one going to Worth county and the other to Oregon.

In 1854 there was quite an influx of settlers. Among those who came this year were, Wellington Benton, Henry Martin, Steven Wright, James G. Beebe, A. Beebe, Seth B. Stevens, Jacob Van Curen and Henry Van Patter.

Wellington Benton settled on section 28, where he resided until 1869, when he sold out and went to Missouri.

Henry Martin, who became, during his lifetime, quite a prominent citizen of the county was a Vermonter. He entered the north east quarter of section 21 in 1854, but did not build until the next year, when he erected a log cabin in which he lived for eleven years.

Steven Wright was a brother of David and Edward Wright and, like his brothers, was a Yorkstate man. He settled on section 28.

James G. Beebe was an Illinois man, hailing from La Salle county. He settled on section 28 and resided there until 1870, when he moved into Mason City. He afterward moved to Minnesota.

A. Beebe settled on section 27. He lived there until some time during the war, when he moved back to his old home in Eldora, Hardin county.

Seth B. Stevens was born in New York, but came to Cerro Gordo county from Illinois. He settled on section 22. In 1861, October 24th, he enlisted in Company C, 14th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. When his regiment veteranized in 1864, he re-enlisted and served until August, 1865, when he was honorably discharged from the service, on account of broken health.

Jacob Van Curen settled on section 27, where he made his home until 1862, when he emigrated to Oregon.

Henry Van Patter with his family came from Illinois and settled on section 28. Mr. Van Patter, a few years later, died suddenly from heart disease while plowing in the field. His son, John Van Patter, took his father's place and resided on the old homestead until 1882, when he went to South Dakota, near Chamberlain.

Among those who came to Lime Creek township during 1855 were, John and his son John J. Russell, Thomas B. Wilson, Ambrose M. Bryant, Timothy H. Parker.

John Russell was used to pioneer life when he came to Cerro Gordo county, coming from Jackson county, Iowa. He brought his family and household goods, farming utensils, provisions, etc., in covered wagons hauled by eight yoke of oxen. Besides his teams, he drove through with him forty head of cattle. After arriving in Cerro Gordo, he purchased more cattle, increasing his herd to sixty head of cattle. The winter of 1855-6 was one of unusual severity and Mr. Russell being ill prepared for the proper shelter of his cattle in so rigorous a climate, lost forty head during this first winter. His house was built of logs and was of unusual size for a log house, being 20x32 feet. It was covered with shakes split out by himself. His spacious castle of logs had a doorway wide enough to admit the entrance of a yoke of yearling steers, with which he used to haul into the house the large "backlogs" and "foresticks" which he burned in his wide and deep fire place.

John Jacob Russell, the son of John Russell, was seventeen years of age when, with his father, he came to Cerro Gordo county and settled in Lime Creek township, or what became Lime Creek in later years. In 1861, when he was twenty-three years of age, he enlisted in the Fourteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and went with his command to Fort Randall, Dakota territory, which was then inhabited only by the Sioux and other Indian tribes. In 1864 he was transferred to the Forty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and later to the Seventh Iowa Cavalry. On October 31st, 1864, he was honorably discharged and returned to his home.

Thos. B. Wilson was a Vermonter, but came to Iowa from La Salle county, Illinois. He settled on section 27.

Paul Dennis, a son-in-law of Mr. Wilson, came at the same time and settled on section 27.

Ambrose M. Bryant pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 9. Unlike so many of the early pioneers, Mr. Bryant did not settle in the woods along Lime creek, but out on the prairie. His farm, however, was of great fertility and had on it several splendid never-failing springs of pure water. Five years after Mr. Bryant settled on the prairies of Lime Creek, he married the daughter of another pioneer, Miss Mary Dennis, the daughter of Paul Dennis, who, it will be remembered, was the son-in-law of Thomas B. Wilson.

Timothy H. Parker settled on section 34. Although he came to the county in 1855, he did not settle in Lime Creek until the spring of 1856.



David Dunbar settled in Lime Creek in 1858, on section 16. In 1860 he sold out to Levi Parker.

Levi Parker was another son of the Green Mountains, having been born in Franklin county, Vermont, April 2d, 1822. Like most of the other Vermonters, he came to Cerro Gordo county by the way of Illinois.

Leonard Hill was a York state man. He came to Iowa in 1856 and to Lime Creek in 1860 and settled on section 34.

Josephus Cooper, unlike the great majority of the pioneers of Cerro Gordo county, who came from the northern states, was a southerner, having been born in Virginia, December 8th, 1808. He came north when he was of age and settled in Illinois. In 1864 he came to Cerro Gordo county, and settled in Lime Creek on section 1.

Charles H. O'Neil was a New Yorker, having been born in Clinton of the Empire state on March 14, 1844. Mr. O'Neil came to Cerro Gordo county from Wisconsin. Mr. O'Neil was one of Lime Creek's leading citizens when he settled on section 19 in 1868.

L. A. Peck, who settled in Lime Creek in 1869, presents the novelty of having been a native of a western state, having been born in Wisconsin, November 26, 1847, in Rock county. For several several years he worked a part of a large tract of land owned by his father, but finally settled on section 27, in 1881.

Henry Matley was a son of old England, having been born in Lancastershire, England, February 17, 1836. When fourteen years of age, he came to America with his parents and settled with them on a farm in Columbia county, Wisconsin, near Portage City. When twenty-one years of age he went to Monroe county, Wisconsin, and bought himself a farm near Sparta. On August 15th, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served his adopted country until the close of the war. But before the war had closed he had made a record worthy of one of the "Old Guard" of Napoleon. He helped fight the enemies of his country at Vicksburg, Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, Jackson and Carrion Crow, besides innumerable skirmishes. At Vicksburg he was wounded in the arm by a minie ball and on November 3rd, 1863, he was taken prisoner at Carrion Crow. He was exchanged June 6, 1864, at Jackson, Mississippi. He was honorably discharged July 4th, 1865. After the war he returned to Sparta, Wisconsin, and resumed farming on the farm he had bought before the war. Five

years after the close of the war he was married to Miss Annie Draper, a native of Derbyshire, England. In 1876 he sold out in Wisconsin and came and settled in Lime Creek.

Another settler in Lime Creek, whose name is written in letters of light on the Roll of Honor, which contains the names of all the "Boys in blue" who fought for flag and country in the Civil war, is Louis Neidermeyer, a native of the "Fatherland," having been born in Germany, June 6th, 1850. When four years old he came to America with his parents and settled with them in Orange county, New Jersey. In 1864, when he was but fourteen years of age, he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-ninth New Jersey Volunteers, and served with his regiment until it was mustered out in July, 1865. He received his "Baptism of fire" at the great and sanguinary battle of Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh. He also participated in the battles of Hatcher's Run, Stone Creek and several other engagements. After the war he spent several years in moving about from place to place, but in 1876 he married Miss Lena Thing and determined to settle down. He settled in Lime Creek township the year after his marriage, in 1877.

*Organic.*—Sometime in 1864 a considerable number of the settlers in Lime Creek township petitioned the board of supervisors for a separation from Mason township, to which it had hitherto been attached and formed a part. This old petition was signed by Paul Dennis, John Hover, John Blake, Levi Parker, Henry Martin, Henry L. Brown, W. Benton, L. G. Parker, C. W. Tenney, James G. Beebe, T. Parker, W. Harding, A. T. Miller, Orin Thompson, T. C. Van Vatter, H. Humphrey, P. Meddaugh, Louis M. Miller, C. S. Meddaugh. This petition was filed with the board June 10, 1864, by H. G. Parker, clerk of the board and was allowed the same day.

Six years later, in 1870, another petition was filed with the board asking that congressional township 97, range 20 west, be organized into a civil township and given the name of Lime Creek. This petition was signed by the following named residents and electors of the proposed township: James Draper, Dwight Brown, Elion Cole, Henry Martin, William Kling and Ira C. Kling. The township was organized at that time but it seems that the records of the first election are lost.

*First Death and Marriage.*—The first death in Lime Creek

township was Mrs. Corington, who died in the never-to-be-forgotten hard winter of 1855-6.

The first marriage was that of Charles Lutz to a daughter of Alexander Long in the summer of 1855. The officiating magistrate was Squire John L. McMillen at the home of the bride's parents on section 34. Cerro Gordo county, being at that time a township of Floyd county, Lutz had to obtain his license in Floyd county.

*Schools.*—The first school in Lime Creek township was taught in the summer of 1855 by Eliza Gardner, who was one of the Gardner family massacred at Spirit Lake. This school was taught in a log house owned by Wellington Benton. It was a mere cabin of the rudest character, covered with shakes and pointed up with clay. The cabin was located on the northern quarter of section 28. In the summer of 1856 the same school was taught by Frank E. Temple.

The first school house built by public money was erected in 1857 on section 34.

There were two additional schools in session in the year 1857. Elizabeth Hoyt taught the first school in the school house built in district No. 5, in 1857. This school house was located on section 22. It was afterward enlarged and used for church purposes by different denominations until 1880, when it was converted into a dwelling house. The next school house in this district was erected in 1865 on section 21. This was a stone house and was used for school purposes until 1875, when it was demolished.

The other school taught in the township in 1857 was taught in a school house built that year in district No. 8, on section 34. Frank Temple and Henry Gray were among the early teachers. This school house was burned down during the war and another built on the same site.

In point of time, the next school taught in the township was in district No. 4, in a log cabin on section 19, in the winter of 1858-9. The cabin was owned by Stephen Wright.

The next new school was taught in 1871, in a new school house on section 25 and district No. 7. Miss Emma Russell taught the first school.

In 1860 a school house was built with public money on the same section as the log cabin owned by Stephen Wright on section 19, but in 1864, as it was being moved to the southeast part of

the section, it was struck by lightning and badly damaged. It was not used for some time but was finally repaired and put to school use.

The first school taught in district No. 3 was in a school house built in 1872, on section 6. Miss Fannie Dexter was the first teacher. She afterward married Julius Thompson of Worth county.

In district No. 1 the first school house was built in 1874 on section 6. Miss Cummings was the first teacher.

District No. 2 was not provided with a school house until 1878, when one was built on section 10.

District No. 6, also got its first school house in 1878, located on section 13. Miss Edith Crane taught the first school.

Like districts Nos. 1 and 6, district No. 9 did not get a school house until 1878, at which time one was erected on section 31. Miss Cora Babcock was the first teacher.

*Religion.*—It has been stated elsewhere in this history that Owen township has always been greatly devoted to religious worship. It must, in all fairness, be admitted that Lime Creek fairly discounts Owen in this respect.

The first religious services of a formal and public character, held in the township were by the United Brethren at the home of Alanson Beebe. Rev. Musselman conducted the services. It must have been noted before this that at the time of its early settlement, the United Brethren were very prominent if not predominant in Cerro Gordo county. At this writing, 1910, there is not a United Brethren congregation in the county and it may well be doubted if there is a single member of that denomination in the county. The total disappearance of this once numerous and influential sect from our county within a period of half a century affords a striking example of the transitory character of human opinions on even so serious a subject as religion.

The Free Methodists organized a class in the township in 1873 at the house of Mr. Van Patter. Rev. Thomas La Due had charge of the organization, which consisted of the following named members: H. W. Shumaker, Mrs. Calvin Parker, Wm. Jellison, Wm. Hulet and Mrs. Ellen Hulet. H. W. Shumaker was chosen class leader. Free Methodism seems to have shared the same fate as the United Brethren. For a long time religious services were held in the school house in district No. 3. In 1873 the first



to try his hand here was Rev. Bennett, a Congregational minister, and the next, Rev. George Rogers, a Baptist clergyman. In 1879 the Evangelical Association organized a class in this school house with 8 members as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Matley, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Snell, Mrs. Peter Trainor, Mrs. Mary Anderson and J. J. Long, who was chosen class leader. Rev. T. J. Fink was the first preacher. He remained a couple of years.

In the early days cane mills, operated by a sweep, a horse, and a pair of wooden rollers were scattered all over the township and county too, for that matter, and most of the sweet was that furnished by sorghum molasses. In 1880 Henry Martin set up a new mill with iron rollers and sheet iron boiling pans. The syrup produced was but little, if any better in quality, but its manufacture was easier, cheaper and more expeditious.

In 1871 N. M. Nelson and Henry Brickson established a brickyard on section 34, Lime Creek township. This continued in operation until the establishment of the great brick and tile works in Mason City. Up to twenty years ago, most of the brick used in the building of Mason City were furnished by this yard.

The first creamery started in this section was built by Leonard Hill in 1880.

In 1875, while Will Dennis and John Elder were drilling a well near the cheese factory on the Roberts farm, they came suddenly on a large cavity about eight feet below the surface. The cavity was lined with boulders and was a freak of glacial action.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### MASON TOWNSHIP.

HISTORY OF MASON TOWNSHIP—EARLY SETTLEMENT—ONE OF THE FIRST TOWNSHIPS SETTLED—ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE ORGANIZED—ITS EARLY SCHOOLS.

Mason township is bounded on the east by Portland, on the north by Lime Creek, on the west by Lake and on the south by Bath township and comprises congressional township 96, range 20 west. The surface soil is generally a sandy loam, although in some places the clay is very close to the top. In parts the soil is warm and quick, but in others it is cold and slow. In many places the subsoil is the solid rock and is therefore little able to withstand the drowth. In places where the boulder clay or drift till constitutes the subsoil the crops suffer from wet weather. Still there is much good and productive soil in Mason township, although it is far from being the banner agricultural township in the county. There is a large body of timber at the confluence of the Lime and the Willow and Mason City is built in the woods. These Mason City woods extend far to the north.

Some of the finest scenery in this part of the state is found in Mason township along the Lime and Willow. There are long stretches of water, high rocky escapments and shaded woodlands.

Both the Lime and the Willow would furnish an abundance of waterpower if utilized. But little of the latent waterpower possessed by Willow creek can be used owing to the fact that the stream flows directly through Mason City where it would be impracticable to dam the water. Parker's mill, however, is located within the city limits and the water power of Willow creek at that point was utilized for years without harm. There is a splendid water power on Lime creek at the Kuppinger mill and other dams could be constructed below that point in Mason township. The time has not come yet, however, when the need of water power is felt as it will be some day.

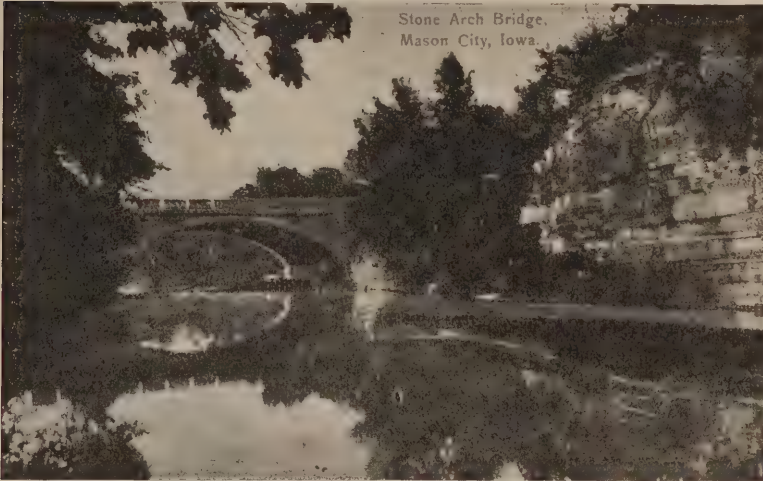
*Early Settlement.*—The first settler in Mason township was James Jenkinson, a native of Lincolnshire, England. He settled on Lime creek, where Mason City now stands, in 1853.

John L. McMillen and John B. Long also came in 1853.

Alexander Long, Thomas Cassidy and Lee L. Brentner came in 1854. Of these Alexander Long did not remain long but soon removed to Forest City and was frozen to death, an account of which is found elsewhere in this work.

Thomas Cassidy settled on section 36. He did not prove up on his claim, however, but sold out and moved away.

Lee L. Brentner enlisted August 22, 1862, in Company B, 32nd Iowa, and served with his regiment until the close of the war when he was honorably discharged with his regiment at Clinton, Iowa, August 23, 1865. Among the many battles and minor engage-



ments in which he did a true soldier's part, were Fort De Russey, Pleasant Hill, Tupelo, Old Town Creek and Nashville.

Among those who came in 1855 were Mrs. Lucinda Thompson, Elisha Randall, John A. Felt, C. B. Peabody, Edgar Osborn, E. D. and Charles H. Huntly, Silas Card, Peerson Jones and Osman B. Thompson, a son of Mrs. Lucinda Thompson.

Of these Silas Card, Elisha Randall, Mrs. Thompson and the two Huntlys, settled in the village of Mason City as did O. B. Thompson, the sixteen year old son of Lucinda Thompson.

In 1858 young Thompson settled on section 23, Mason township.

E. D. Huntly lived four years in Mason City and in 1859 settled on the southeast quarter of section 16. During his stay in the county he served on the board of supervisors and as county clerk. He went to Kansas in 1870.

Chas. H. Huntly enlisted in Company B, 32nd Iowa Infantry in 1862. He fell on the field of honor, fighting for his country at the battle of Pleasant Hill, in 1864. Mr. Huntly was a son-in-law of Elisha Randall.

Among the more prominent settlers who came in 1856 were, Peter Beeber, who settled on section 11, John A. Felt, who settled on section 12, J. P. Taylor, who settled on section 13, Alfred Taylor, who settled on section 12 and Frank E. Temple, who settled on section 23. Mr. Temple was born and reared in New York state. In 1855 he was married to Miss Lucy A. Rugg and came and settled in Mason township the next year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Temple were teachers and taught many terms of school in the early days in Cerro Gordo county. Mr. Temple also held many offices of trust.

Among those who settled in the township between the years of 1856 and 1860 were Bruce A. Bryant, James Clark, Elihu Brown, L. A. Franklin and Dr. Ogden.

Of these, the most prominent was Bruce A. Bryant. He first settled in Lime Creek township in 1857, but only remained in that township a year, when he sold out and settled on section 16 in 1858. Two years later he was married to Miss Cynthia Cole of Pike county, Ohio, in 1860. Two years after his marriage, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 3rd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served his country until May, 1864, when he received an honorable discharge on account of physical disability.

James Clark was an Englishman, having been born in Suffolk county, England, September 27, 1830. He came to America in 1852 and in 1858 settled in Mason township on section 16. In September, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 32nd Iowa, and served during the war, being honorably discharged with his regiment at Clinton, Iowa, in September, 1865. He was in active service, being with General Sherman on his Meridan raid; with Banks on his ill-starred Red River expedition; and with Fighting A. J. Smith when he was chasing the Confederate General Stirling Price through Missouri. He was also at the battle of Nashville,



where the Rock of Chickamauga crushed the army of General Hood and thus assured the success of General Sherman's celebrated "March to the Sea;" he was at the siege of Mobile, where Admiral Farragut blotted out the remains of the Confederate navy, and won for himself the imperishable surname of "The Salamander." Mr. Clark was married in 1857 to Miss Georgiana Frevett, of Dorsetshire, England, to whom he returned after the close of the war.

Elihu Brown first settled in Mason City, but in 1871 he settled on section 11 on land he had bought some years before.

L. A. Franklin settled on section 16 in 1859. He went to Kansas in 1870.

Dr. Ogden settled on section 25 in 1860. He afterward moved into Mason and practiced his profession.

The decade from 1860 to 1870, seems to have been composed of lean years for Mason township, so far as settlers was concerned. There were many who came, but there were also many who went. It seemed to be a period of flux and reflux. In 1869, near the close of the barren years, the following came and became permanent settlers: John Vernall, Alexander McGowan, Henry A. Gillett and Patrick O'Neil.

Patrick O'Neil was born in Ireland in 1843. He came to the United States in 1860. In 1861 he entered the service of the federal government as a teamster and shortly after joined the Army of the Potomac. He served three years with the First Brigade, Second Division, Eleventh Army Corps. In 1869 he came to Mason township and settled on section 1.

Nelson Vernall settled on section 25 in 1869.

Alexander McGowan settled on section 13 in 1869.

Edwin G. Jay bought land in section 16 in 1869, but did not settle on it until 1870. On August 15, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, and started for the front, but at Cairo he was taken critically ill and was honorably discharged from the service November 6 of the same year, on account of physical disability.

Henry A. Gillett was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, July 14, 1839. He was of pure American blood, his father coming from Connecticut and his mother from "The Old Dominion." As a joint son of Connecticut and Virginia, he united in his person the North and the South and as a soldier for the Union he fought to preserve that union indissoluble. Henry A. Gillett enlisted in Company I, 3d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in June,

1861, and December 13, 1863, he re-enlisted at Wartrace, Tennessee, and served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged with his regiment, July 18, 1865. Henry A. Gillett with his gallant veteran regiment took an exceedingly active part in the Civil war, being constantly at the front where fire and smoke were thickest and serving in some of the most important and strenuous campaigns of both the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the Tennessee. He was on the firing line at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, with Sherman in his famous march to the sea and at the grand review in the streets of Washington after the "cruel war was over." He was honorably discharged with his regiment, July 18, 1865. In 1869 he was married to Miss Jennie Rawe, a native of England, and in 1870 he settled on section 21, Mason township, Cerro Gordo county.

*Organic.*—As Mason township was one of the first townships to be settled, so it was one of the first to be organized into a civil township. It was organized in 1856 and at the time contained within its boundaries nearly one-fourth of the total area of the whole county. For many years Mason City constituted an integral part of Mason township, the same as Clear Lake and Rockwell today form integral parts of Clear Lake and Geneseo townships. It was not until 1886 that Mason township finally succeeded in getting itself detached from Mason City and setting up for itself as a separate and independent commonwealth. During the spring of that year several petitions were circulated among and signed by the voters residing in the township outside of the corporate limits of Mason City, asking the board of supervisors for a separate organization as a civil township. These petitions were granted by the board and a township election ordered to be held in the school house in district No. 5. The judges of election were Bruce A. Bryant, Wm. Letts and H. A. Gillett, with H. P. Loring as clerk. The officers elected at this first election were: justices of the peace, J. G. Brown and Richard Davey; constables, Delos Whitney and John Hill; clerk, H. P. Loring; assessor, P. Davey.

*Early Schools.*—There was a stone school house built on the east side of Lime Creek on the southwest quarter of section 12; this was used for several years. It was built in 1857. The next school house was built in 1878 on the same quarter of section 12, but on the west side of Lime creek. This was a frame building. Miss Cora Brown was the first teacher in this school house.

School house No. 7, was built in 1861 on section 2. Miss Sarah McPeak was the first teacher. In 1880 this building was destroyed by fire and another school house was immediately erected on the same site. A. H. Cummings was the first teacher in the new school house.

The first school taught in the neighborhood where No. 4 now stands was taught by Mrs. Frank E. Temple in 1862, in a house owned by Dr. Huntly on section 16. A stone school house was built a few years later on the southeast quarter of section 17 and was in use until 1880, at which time a frame building was built on the northwest quarter of section 17. The first teacher in this building was Miss Reeshie Cilley.

The first school house in district No. 5 was first located on section 21, but in 1870 was moved to section 23. Frank Dunham was the first teacher.

The first school house in the neighborhood of district No. 6 was moved from section 21, in 1870, and located on section 23. This building was used about three years and another erected on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 23. Miss Anna Brightman was the first teacher here.

The first school taught in district No. 8, was in Joseph Rule's house in the early seventies or later sixties. The Misses Louise Vandermark and Dora Armitage taught here. The first school house was built in 1874 or 1875 on the northwest quarter of section 36. Miss Nettie Barney was the first teacher.

The first school house in district No. 9 was a building moved from Lake township in 1879. Miss Ellen Barton was the first teacher.

The first school house in district No. 2 was built in 1879 on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 6. Miss Ella Miller was one of the first teachers.

School house No. 10 was built in 1881 on the southeast quarter of section 20. Miss Anna Grippen was the first teacher.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### GENESEO TOWNSHIP.

HISTORY OF GENESEO TOWNSHIP—EARLY SETTLEMENT—ORGANIZED AS LINN TOWNSHIP—NAME CHANGED TO GENESEO—TOWN OF ROCKWELL—CREAMERY—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—SOCIETIES.

Geneseo comprises congressional township 94, range 20 west, and is bounded by Bath on the north, by Dougherty on the east, by Franklin county on the south and Pleasant Valley township on the west. Beaver Dam creek enters the township on section 3, but immediately leaves again, re-entering at the northeast corner of section 4, taking a southern course and uniting with the West Fork of the Red Cedar river, on the southern part of section 21, which takes a southeasterly course, leaving the township on the southeast quarter of section 35. The surface of the township is gently undulating and is well watered by springs and streams. The soil is a rich prairie loam. Near the streams the lime rock is usually from eight to twelve feet from the surface, and in some localities much nearer. Back from the streams at a distance of about one mile exists a clay sub-soil.

Until 1880, wheat was the leading cereal raised; since that time corn and oats have been the principal grains produced. But little wheat is now raised, while much attention is paid to stock raising and dairying.

*Early Settlement.*—Jarvis J. Rogers was the first settler of the township. He settled on section 3, May 2, 1855, where he made claim to 160 acres of land, but when the land came into market it was purchased by other parties, of whom Mr. Rogers purchased. He and his family occupied this tract for nine and one-half years and sold to George B. Rockwell. Mr. Rogers built a log house on the land, near where the residence of Mr. Rockwell afterward stood.



This was the first house built in what was afterward Geneseo township, the ruins of which still were to be seen in 1883. In 1864 Mr. Rogers bought the farm of Mrs. George Fuller where he resided at the time of his death.

Lyman Hunt settled on section 27, in May, 1858. He was a native of Massachusetts, but came here with his family from Illinois. He died February 11, 1876. His widow lived there for many years and her daughter, Mary E., was the first white child born in the township.

George Alonzo Fuller settled on section 10 in 1860, and soon after went into the army, where he died in 1864, after which his family removed to New York.

Francis Walter settled on section 10, in the spring of 1861.

Nelson J. Grummon located the same year on section 3, and afterward owned an adjoining farm on the same section.

In 1859 John Whitesell settled on section 9, but later moved to Franklin county, went into the army, since which but little is known of him.

George E. Lyman bought section 36, in February, 1860. He still owns his old home farm, although living in Rockwell.

Rev. Loomis Benjamin was one of the pioneer preachers of Cerro Gordo county. He came to Franklin county, Iowa, in the spring of 1860, and preached both in Franklin and Cerro Gordo counties, and probably preached the first sermon in Geneseo township.

Christian Kittell came from Shell Rock, Butler county, in 1861, and settled on section 31.

Sidney Dillingham came from Cherry Valley, Illinois, and settled in Geneseo township in 1863. Mr. Dillingham died in 1882.

Benjamin F. Lyman came with his family in April, 1861, and purchased a quarter of section 36, but died suddenly, April 28, 1862. His wife returned to Illinois.

Daniel Warner settled in 1862, built a log house and remained two years, when he removed to Kansas.

George Hunt located on section 35, but soon returned to Illinois.

William Wright settled on the northeast quarter of section 36, where he lived two years and moved to Franklin county.

Jeremiah Dodd settled on section 25, where he lived about two years and returned to Illinois.

*Organic.*—Geneseo township was formerly called Linn, and was organized under that name September 23, 1859. The first election was held at the school house, near Jarvis J. Rogers', October 11, 1859, at which there were but six votes cast: Lyman Hunt, John Whitesell, William Holmes, James W. Goheen, Jarvis J. and Francis Rogers. The following officers were elected: Trustees, John Whitesell, James W. Goheen and William Holmes; justices of the peace, J. J. Rogers and Lyman Hunt; constables, James Goheen and John Whitesell; assessor, James W. Goheen; clerk, Francis M. Rogers; road supervisor, Jarvis Rogers. The judges of this election were: William Holmes, J. W. Goheen and John Whitesell.

In 1862 the name of the township was changed to Geneseo, at the suggestion of George A. Fuller, who came from near Geneseo, New York.

The first couple married in the township, were Elihu Brown and Mary Rogers; the ceremony was performed by Rev. Loomis Benjamin, June 3, 1861.

The first death was that of Benjamin F. Lyman, April 28, 1862.

The first birth was Mary E., daughter of Lyman and Samantha Hunt.

The first sermon preached in the township, was delivered by Rev. Loomis Benjamin, early in the spring of 1860. Rev. Shoffer, of the United Brethren, preached at about that date also.

*Cemeteries.*—The first burying place in Geneseo township, was on the southwest quarter of section 36. The principal cemetery is on the northeast quarter of section 10, which joins the town plat of Rockwell. It is regularly laid out, having many native oaks, with evergreens here and there. There are many fine monuments in this cemetery.

*Schools.*—The first school in the township was taught by Mary Rogers, in 1859, in a log building on section 3. Miss Rogers afterwards became the wife of Elihu Brown. The township has been organized into nine sub-districts.

#### VILLAGE OF ROCKWELL.

The town plat of this village includes the southeast quarter of section 3, township 94, range 20 west, in Geneseo township. It

was named by Charles C. Gilman, the first president of the Central Railway of Iowa, in honor of George B. Rockwell, the owner of the ground on which the town is located. It was laid out by Mr. Rockwell and the Iowa Valley Construction Company. The survey was executed by C. F. Vincent in the fall of 1870, at a time when the track of the Central Railway of Iowa reached this point. The original plat, however, only included the west half of the present limits. The northeast quarter of the plat, lying east of the Iowa Central track, was laid out several years later, by Newell, Dickson and Todd, and called Kirtland. The first house was built by James Howland, in the fall of 1870. The depot and house for



HIGH SCHOOL, ROCKWELL.

the section hands were built the same fall. The following spring the Putman House and several dwellings were put up. The first store was opened by Albert Bruce, in the front part of the Putnam House. The first wagon maker was Christian Zeidler. The first blacksmith shop was opened by James Platt. The first shoemaker was John Winship.

The first regular grocery store was kept by W. V. Todd, who sold to Ford and Fuller.

The first drug store was kept by Miller and Curtis.

The first hardware store was kept by Harris Bros.

The grain business of Rockwell, for many years after the first location of the town, was an extensive and paying branch of industry, as all the broad prairies are first made to produce wheat and oats, they being the most profitable crop, until after the soil has been better subdued and adapted to corn raising. The first elevators were built by J. B. Piersol and George H. Felthous respectively.

The first man engaged in the furniture business, was S. E. Nutting, who soon disposed of it and returned to his former home in Wisconsin.

A postoffice was established in October, 1860, at the house of G. A. Fuller, the first postmaster. The name of this office was Linn. Mr. Fuller enlisted in 1862, and his wife continued in charge of the office until his death, when she returned to New York, and was succeeded by J. J. Rogers. In 1871 the office was removed to Rockwell, and W. R. Putman became postmaster. It became a money order office in 1879, the first order being drawn by Dexter Bros. the amount being \$18.05, in favor of the Davenport Glucose Manufacturing Company. The first order was paid to Mrs. Clarissa Bigelow, amount \$25. Mr. Putman continued as postmaster until his death, which occurred January 7, 1876. His wife, Mrs. Martha Putman, was commissioned as postmistress, May 16, 1876.

On the election of Grover Cleveland to the presidency in 1884, a Democrat, Frank Campbell, became postmaster. With the election of Benjamin Harrison in 1888 the postoffice again went to the Republicans, George W. Howland becoming postmaster. When Cleveland again succeeded to the presidency in 1892, the Rockwell postoffice, as the only bit of federal patronage in the village, was again taken from the Republicans and given to the Democrats, George W. Howard receiving the appointment. In the hard-fought national campaign of 1896, the Republicans were once more victorious and as a result the Rockwell postoffice was promptly taken from the Democrats and given back to the Republicans. This time the appointee was W. A. Grummon, editor of the *Phonograph*. Mr. Grummon is, in 1910, still postmaster and will, if he does not die or resign in the meantime, hold the office until 1912 at least.

The first attorney in Rockwell was P. J. Dougherty, a son of Hon. Daniel Dougherty of Dougherty. Mr. Dougherty was fol-



lowed in the profession by James H. McConologue. Rockwell, however, has always proved a barren fig tree to the legal profession and Dougherty and McConologue soon sought more promising fields. Dougherty went to Chicago, where he practiced for some years. He afterward removed from Chicago to Mason City, where he continued in the practice of his profession. He is at present located in his native town of Dougherty, where he has a lucrative legal business. McConologue went to Mason City and entered the practice of law at that place. After winning his legal spurs he was offered and accepted a partnership with Senator John D. Glass.

The first physician in Rockwell was Dr. J. A. Le Fevre. Rockwell was quite a healthy place in its early days and did not offer the fat field it afterward did for the doctors, and La Fevre left. Dr. E. C. Miller was a close second to Le Fevre in point of time in Rockwell, and Dr. Thomas A. Smith was not far behind Miller. Since the days of Le Fevre and Miller and Smith, doctors have come and gone. Dr. Miller has risen to wide prominence as a physician at Brookings, South Dakota. He was in 1910, elected to the state senate of South Dakota. While in Rockwell Dr. Miller was for years county coroner as well as mayor of Rockwell, member of the city council, president of the board of health, member of the United States pension examining board, etc. The sick of the Rockwell bailiwick are at present under the skillful care of Drs. H. D. Holman and F. A. Cogswell.

The Rockwell creamery building, now reduced to inglorious use as a roosting, nesting and hatching place for unsavory domestic fowls, was once the hope and pride of Rockwell. The creamery was established in 1882 by a local joint stock company of which the first directors were J. A. Felthous, J. B. Piersol and Wm. Henderson. For a brief period everything seemed to go well, but there were breakers and shoals and sand bars and sunken rocks, not only ahead, but on every hand, and shipwreck finally overtook the Rockwell Creamery. It became a derelict on the sea of industry, and was finally purchased, with the tract of land on which it stood, by M. C. Burgess and converted into a hennery. In 1910 a new co-operative creamery society has been organized with a membership of 150. A new and commodious building is being erected and the latest improved machinery is being provided. The success of the new creamery seems assured.

*Schools.*—The first school taught in Rockwell was by Prof. S. W. Cilley, a graduate of the University of Vermont. This in the winter of 1871-2. Prof. Cilley was long remembered by the people of Rockwell as a teacher of the highest efficiency and education. He afterward became a practicing attorney in Minneapolis. The first school house, and the one in which Prof. Cilley taught the first school in the town, was built in the summer of 1871, and was, at the time, one of the best in the county, and reflected great credit on the enterprise and ambition of the people. This first school building lasted through the '70s and the '80s and served the people well, but at last, it became outgrown and there arose a demand for a new and better school house and in the early '90s the present high school building was erected. It too is a credit to the community. It is a two-story brick structure and strictly modern in every particular and was erected at a cost of about \$10,000. The school employs a corps of six teachers. There is a gymnasium on the third floor. The following is a list of the principals since the beginning of the Rockwell school: Prof. Cilley, Prof. Hemming, Emma Hemming, Prof. Kling, D. D. Ford, Miss Humphrey, Prof. Ham, Miss Libbie Webster, Prof. Wier, R. J. Miller, Prof. Loveland, Prof. Doderer, Miss Sue Treston, Prof. McCarthy, Prof. Flemming, Prof. Mahannah, Prof. Clemmer, Prof. Charlson, Prof. Grawe. Prior to establishment at Rockwell of a parochial school by the Catholics, in 1901, the enrollment of the Rockwell public school considerably exceeded 200, but since that event, it does not much exceed 100, on an average.

In 1901 the Catholics of Rockwell and vicinity built a large school building and instituted a parochial school. This building is of an imposing style of architecture and cost approximately \$25,000. It is a two-story brick structure and strictly modern in plans and appliances. In addition to the common school course, there is also an academic course which includes an art department, in which instruction is given in the arts, painting, music, etc. This school is commonly spoken of as the academy and the building is one of the most imposing school buildings in the county as well as one of the most expensive.

*Churches.*—The first sermon preached in the town of Rockwell was by a Congregational minister named W. P. Bennett. This was in the school house in 1871. Rev. Bennett organized a society of that denomination in 1873. It was a small society consisting of but

twelve persons, towit: C. Carriel and wife, Miss Lura Carriel, Mrs. Caroline Felthous, J. A. Felthous, Hattie Hutchins, Mrs. Nancy Rogers, Miss Anna Rogers, J. A. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Rockwell and Miss Mary Elizabeth Rockwell. The first officers of the church were: J. A. Barnes and Mrs. G. B. Rockwell, deacons; J. A. Felthous, clerk; C. Carriel, G. B. Rockwell and Mrs. Caroline Felthous, trustees. The first regular pastor was Rev. W. P. Bennett. The present church edifice was built in 1879, at a cost of \$2,200. A considerable addition to the church building has since been made. Prior to the building of the church edifice, services were held in the school house.

The first Methodist preaching at Rockwell was in October, 1869, by Rev. W. S. Darwin. The first class was organized by Rev. W. W. Miller in 1872. The church organization was incorporated December 11, 1875. The first trustees were, George E. Lyman, Francis Walter, Albert Bruce, George H. Felthous and George Gibson. The first members were, Francis Walter, Rev. Loomis and Mary Benjamin, M. E. and M. Keniff. The first services were held in the school house at Linn Grove. In 1888 a fine church edifice was erected at a cost of about \$3,000.

In 1876, Rev. Charles W. Sherwood organized a Christian or Disciple church at Rockwell. The first members were: Silas W. Geer and wife, David S. Trapp and wife, Thomas R. Diltz and wife, Jane Dexter, Enoch Garrison and wife, William Foster and wife, Effie Geer, Philip Brisbin and wife, John Kew and wife, Fannie Sherwood, Harmon Diltz and wife, John Nelson and wife, Joseph Gilchrist and wife, Bertha Hemming, Lizzie Haddon, Joseph Dexter and John Knesel and wife. Charles W. Sherwood was the first pastor; Silas S. Geer, and Joseph Gilchrist, elders; Thomas R. Diltz and David S. Trapp, deacons. In the later eighties this church disintegrated and its members joined the other Protestant churches.

The Baptist church was organized, April 13, 1878, by Rev. Austin Gibb. The original members were: James, Ann, Charles T., and William B. Bruce, Nelson J. and Romelia Grummon, Hans and Eda A. Hansen, Gifford D. and Emma Rice, German Hunt and John Hunt. John Cook was deacon, James Bruce, clerk, and Hans Hansen, treasurer. Previous to 1886, the Baptists worshiped in the school house, but in that year they built a church edifice of their own at a cost approximating \$2,000.

The Catholics of Rockwell and vicinity built their first church



SACRED HEART CHURCH, ROCKWELL.



in the early seventies and this first church sufficed for twenty years, when a new, larger and more pretentious edifice was erected, and the old church building was converted into a public hall. In about the year 1906, the new church took fire in the night time and was burned to the ground. Nothing daunted by this calamity the society proceeded to the erection of a still larger and finer church than the one which had been burned. The present church edifice was built in 1907 and cost over \$20,000. The building of the last two churches and the academy resulted largely from the labors and perseverance of Rev. L. H. Burns, who has had charge of the parish for many years and who is one of the most talented, ambitious and influential of the Catholic clergy in northern Iowa.

There is also a Lutheran church in Rockwell. The church edifice was built during the later seventies or early eighties. The society has always been strong and is still in a flourishing condition. Its membership is exclusively of the German nationality.

*Societies.*—Following is a list of the fraternal societies of Rockwell: Fraternity Lodge No. 344, I. O. O. F., organized April 18, 1877. Charter members: E. C. Miller, W. J. Todd, J. B. Piersol, Chas. J. Behr, Samuel Vandervoort. First officers: E. C. Miller, N. G.; Samuel Vandervoort, V. G.; Chas. J. Behr, R. S.; W. J. Todd, treasurer; J. B. Piersol, P. S.

Rockwell Encampment No. 167, I. O. O. F. Officers: S. H. Sadler, C. P.; W. S. Bristol, H. P.; D. C. Shultz, S. W.; Wm. Ayres, J. W.; W. B. Bruce, scribe; C. W. Harris, F. S.

Lucile Rebekah Lodge No. 198. Officers: Mae Sadler, W. G.; Mabel Rood, V. G.; Eliza Gough, warden; Addie Miller, Con.; Mabel Saylor, sec.; Etta Tanner, F. S.

Knights and Ladies of Security No. 1583. Officers: Mrs. Dennis O'Connor, pres.; Mrs. M. O'Connor, vice pres.; Mae O'Conner, prelate; Mrs. L. V. Stevenson, sec.; W. J. Bristol, treas; Wm. Brunstein, sentinel.

Modern Woodmen, Camp No. 4130. Officers: W. H. Campbell, V. C.; R. J. Barnhill, W. A.; L. S. Fausler, banker; R. H. Sherwood, clerk; A. H. Miller, escort.

The St. Lawrence Court No. 644, Catholic Order of Foresters. Organized March 22, 1897. First officers: Rev. L. H. Burns, S. D.; Frank Campbell, C. R.; M. Blake, V. C. R.; Dr. F. E. McGlone, M. E.; J. P. Herley, R. S.; J. J. McCauley, F. S.; T. J. Barragy, T.; Thos. Kelsh, B. H. Downing, J. J. Dougherty, trustees. Pre-

sent officers. Rev. L. H. Burns, S. D.; Edward Gallagher, C. R.; Claud Keenan, V. C. R.; F. A. Cogswell, M. E.; James Treston, R. S.; Murt O'Connor, treasurer; Jos. Bluel, F. S.; Samuel Rankin, Dennis O'Connor, J. P. Scholl, trustees.

Forty years ago the Atlanta Post, G. A. R., was organized in Rockwell and for some years did fairly well, but deaths and removals have gradually produced the practical dissolution of this noblest of the orders. J. B. Piersol was the first commander and E. C. Burdick was the last. Mr. Burdick is one of the most zealous G. A. R., workers in the state.

*Incorporation*—Rockwell was incorporated in September, 1881. The first officers were: Mayor, James Howland; recorder, Peter Fries Jr.; trustees, G. H. Felthous, J. A. Felthous, J. B. Patterson, Myron Dexter, B. A. Angell and Daniel Newell; treasurer, G. H. Howard; marshal, G. M. Strong.

For its size Rockwell is one of the most important markets and shipping points on the Iowa Central Railroad. It has two good banks, the Farmer's State Bank and the Rockwell Bank; one of the best newspapers in the county, the *Phonograph*; three elevators and one of the largest lumber yards in the county, the Farmer's Co-operative; a gas plant, city waterworks, a high-grade woman's literary society, etc.

Before closing this imperfect sketch of Geneseo township one more incident in the history of the township will be given. It is a well understood fact that the writer of local history is per force obliged to make his historical production as near a eulogy of the county and its people and more especially of the past, as the circumstances will permit. Even slight criticism is not relished, and anything approaching just criticism would be highly resented.

It is but a slight criticism to say that the people who used to live in Cerro Gordo were not all saints and to hint that there were other statutes besides the Golden Rule required for their government. For instance there was a practice in the early days for the older established townships to not only appropriate large sections of the county land, but to attempt to hold such lands after the settlers residing on them desired their independence. This was shown in the case of Mt. Vernon township in which case Mason township continued to hold that territory in subjection and collect tribute for its people for a long time after they had demanded a separation. So Owen township, which was one of the original

townships of the county for a long time, held a part of Geneseo township and collected the taxes from it. Finally, in 1872, the people of Geneseo made a supreme effort to get their land. They accordingly presented a petition to the county board asking that sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 of township 95, range 20, be detached from Owen township and attached to Geneseo township. This petition was signed by G. B. Rockwell, A. Bruce, George H. Felthous, J. W. Sieber, T. M. Brown, Andrew Roeder, William Todd, Wm. H. Trapp, Edgar Spencer, Thomas A. Diltz, A. S. Church, G. A. Hively, D. S. Trapp, G. E. Lyman, Nelson J. Grummon, James Hawley, Wm. Foster, C. Carriel, S. C. Carriel, T. N. Brown, John Kintz, A. W. Freeman, Albertis Smith, Nathaniel Dillingham, James Shott, W. R. Putnam, G. A. Barnes, Hector M. Lamb, I. S. Patterson, Lyman Hunt, J. K. Keith.

The action of the board proved that the days of the land pirates was over, for that body granted the prayers of the petitioners, on the 2nd day of April, 1872, and so Geneseo came into its own at last. In looking back it seems strange that the county board had not acted on its own motion in this matter long before and given Geneseo the land that belonged to it without waiting to be nagged into doing so. But there were many strange things happened in Cerro Gordo in the good old days and there are some strange things still happening and strange things likely to continue to happen until the end of time.

No history of Rockwell would be complete without some account of the famous Rockwell Farmers Co-operative society. This society, which was to become so potent a factor in the solution of a great politico-social-economic problem, was organized in 1889, with Hon. Norman Densmore as president and Thomas Chappell as agent. Densmore served as president of the organization for several years. Then James E. Treston served as its president for a term and refusing to serve longer, he was succeeded by James H. Brown. Brown died in 1910 and Matthias Johnson was elected as his successor.

The success of such an organization depends partly on its president and board of directors, but principally on the honesty and business ability of its agent, in whose hands the business management of the concern is practically placed. The Rockwell Society has been singularly fortunate in the character of its agents. Its first agent was Thomas Chappell who retained the office for three years, or until 1892. He was succeeded by the present agent,



Frank Campbell. Mr. Campbell has made an ideal agent and is one of the most successful in the United States. For a period of eighteen years Frank Campbell has guided the fortunes of the most uniformly successful Farmers Co-operative Society in America and probably in the world. While the president and directors have done their part, that part has been for the most part in pursuance to the advice and recommendation of the agent. Mr. Campbell is honest, sagacious and expeditious.

For many years the farmers of the middle west were absolutely at the mercy of the dealers in those articles they had to sell as well as those they had to buy. So onerous had this burden become and so heavy the exactions of the dealers that the farmers made many attempts at different points to handle their own trade by way of co-operation. Invariably, however, these efforts failed until the organization of the Rockwell Society and the adoption of a plan of operation known the world over as the "Rockwell Plan." Hitherto the rock upon which farmers' co-operation had perished had been the concerted action of the dealers to pay high prices for farm products until they had seduced the trade from the farmers' society and caused its failure from lack of patronage. By the Rockwell plan each member of the society was obliged to pay a fixed commission to the society on every article sold to the dealers. This plan has been generally adopted by all farmers' co-operative societies and has resulted in making the co-operative movement a success throughout the whole country.

Besides buying and shipping all kinds of farm produce, the Rockwell co-operative society deals in all kinds of heavy merchandise, such as lumber, coal, nails, salt, lime, cement, farm machinery, etc., besides operating a store in which is kept a large stock of clothing, boots and shoes and furnishing goods. The society owns a large property in Rockwell, including an office building, elevator, warehouses, the store building now occupied and a new and commodious brick store building. Besides the large plant at Rockwell, there is a branch at Cameron on the Iowa Central Railroad.

The establishment and successful operation of the Farmers' Co-operative Society at Rockwell has inaugurated a co-operative movement throughout the middle west which is rapidly assuming the proportions and significance of an economic revolution which it would be out of place here to describe in detail of procedure and probable future development and ultimate effect. When informed



by a courtier of the fall of the Bastile, Louis XVI exclaimed, "It is revolt!" "No, sire," replied the courtier, "it is Revolution." The revolt started by a few farmers in the vicinity of Rockwell against the soulless exactions and inordinate profits of the dealers has developed into a revolution which begins an era.

The present officers of the celebrated Rockwell Farmers' Co-operative Society are as follows: president, Matthias Johnson; agent, Frank Campbell; secretary, W. F. Doderer; treasurer, Charles T. Bruce; directors, J. B. McGaheran, S. H. Sadler, R. A. Holman, John Hogan, Fred Sharp, Charles Hanson, F. F. Stoltenberg, B. I. Bowers, William Letts.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### DOUGHERTY AND PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIPS.

HISTORY OF DOUGHERTY TOWNSHIP—VILLAGE OF DOUGHERTY—SCHOOLS — CHURCHES — SOCIETIES—BUSINESS—PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP—EARLY SETTLEMENT—ORGANIZATION—EARLY SCHOOLS—VILLAGE OF SWALEDALE.

*By Thomas McManus.*

This is the southeast township of Cerro Gordo county. It is bounded on the north by Owen township, on the east by Floyd county, on the south by Franklin county and on the west by Geneseo township. It is a prairie township, the surface is rolling and the soil is a black loam of a very productive quality. Coldwater creek passes diagonally through the township, running in a southeasterly course leaving the territory, from section 36 and entering Floyd county where it eventually flows into the Shell Rock river near Greene. This stream furnishes an ample supply of water for stock and drains the township in a very complete manner.

*Early Settlement.*—Daniel Dougherty, a native of County Donegal, Ireland, made the first settlement in 1863 on section 36, on land that he had entered in 1856. He came here from Clayton county, where he owned a farm, and at once built a log house on his land near the corner of the four counties, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Floyd and Butler. He took an active interest in the settlement of this section, acting as agent for different parties in selling land in this vicinity. The family occupied this residence until 1869, when they moved out of the log cabin into a commodious residence he had built on the north bank of the Coldwater on the same section. About fifteen years ago he, with Mrs. Dougherty, and some of the younger children, moved to Rockwell, but in the event of the

Chicago & Northwestern Railway passing through the township and giving the people a station and a market he moved back again and built a handsome residence in the new town where he now resides in 1910. The family consists of sixteen children, twelve of whom are living, nine boys and three girls, Rev. E. J. Dougherty, of Mason City being one of the number. In politics Mr. Dougherty has always been a Democrat and has taken an active part in state and national issues, and has been honored by the people at different times in electing him to office.

John Humphrey, a native of Ireland, came here in 1864 from Clayton county with a family of two boys and four girls and settled on the southwest quarter of section 36, where he lived until 1875, at which time he moved to Mason township, and later into Mason City.

Perhaps one of the saddest events that occurred in the early settlement of the township was the death of Mathew Humphrey, a cousin of the above named John Humphrey, who also came from Clayton county about the year 1873 and built a small house on the southeast corner of section 22. On Christmas eve, of the same year, returning home from the timber at Marble Rock with a load of wood on his wagon, night and darkness overtook him with a bitter cold northwest wind blowing in his face, and the unfortunate man was overcome with the cold and was found dead and frozen the following morning leaning across the tongue of his wagon in an effort, it would seem, to unhitch his team from the load, having succeeded in unhitching three of the traces.

George B. Merriek with his wife and family of seven boys and one girl, arrived here from near Rockford, Illinois, in 1865, purchased a section of land in sections 25 and 13 making his home in Marble Rock while he was breaking and improving his land, and permanently settling on his farm in 1870, where he lived up to the time of his death. His son, G. F., lived on one of the farms on section 13. P. Moran came here from Wisconsin in 1868 and settled on a farm on section 2, where he lived until 1883, afterwards moving with his family to Dakota. In company with Mr. Moran came Joseph Kirk, a native of Bohemia, and opened a farm of 80 acres on section 2, where he died two years later. His wife, two sons and two daughters survive him. One son, Patrick, with his mother, is still living on the homestead.

J. O. Crapsor came from Franklin county in 1868 and located with his wife and a family of four boys on section 35, where he

lived ten years, after which he returned to Franklin county, and after a few years moving again, into the town of Nashua, Chickasaw county, where he died. His wife and three sons survive him.

James Jessmore, a French Canadian, came from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 14 in 1869, where he built a sod house in which he lived only a year, afterwards moving into Marble Rock.

Among others in the early settlement of the township we might mention Charles McConlogue, father of Colonel McConlogue, of Mason City, who came here with his family from Wisconsin and settled on section 35, where he broke up a farm on which he lived several years raising a large family of boys and girls, he being obliged to act in the double capacity of father and mother, his wife having died shortly after their arrival in Iowa. Mr. McConlogue died several years ago and could feel conscious that he had done his duty in the rearing and bringing up his family.

A. T. Ames came here from the state of Maine and settled on section 12 in 1868, where he built a sod house and broke up some land, living there eight years. But Mr. Ames, being one of those men who liked frontier life, and wanted to be alone, moved again to Dakota as the settlers began to come in here.

T. H. Harris came from Canada and settled with his family on section 13, where he lived eight years and then moved to Sheffield, Franklin county, afterwards moving to Mason City, where he died.

R. Connaughton, a native of Ireland, came here from Illinois about the same time and settled with his wife and family on section 36, where the new town of Dougherty now stands. Mr. Connaughton lived here a number of years, when he moved to Lincoln township and from thence to Dakota.

In the fall of 1869 Thomas and John McManus, in company with five other prospective settlers, came here in a covered wagon from Winneshiek county, and purchased 160 acres on section 24, where they built a house and did some breaking, the following year moving on to their land in the spring of 1871 in company with their father, Redmond McManus, a native of Ireland, and their three sisters. Their father died in 1885 at the advanced age of eighty-five years. Two daughters and one son survive him, Mrs. Ellen O. Dowd of Charles City and Mary McManus of the same place, and Thomas, who still lives on the old homestead. The other parties who accompanied them purchased land and made small payments, but becoming discouraged with the country failed to make a settlement and returned to their homes.



Michael Mitchell moved here from Charles City with his wife and family and settled on section 24, where he lived many years, afterwards moving into Floyd county, and later removing into the new town of Dougherty, where he still resides, his wife having died within the present year.

James Howland came here from Fayette county in 1870 and located on section 3, where he built a house and otherwise improved his farm, at one time owning 800 acres in this township, which he has disposed of since, afterwards moving into Geneseo township, where he owns 240 acres of land. He built the first house on the town plat in Rockwell where he still resides. The writer can remember when The Howland House, as it was called, was the only dwelling on the prairie—with the exception of Alack Ames' sod shanty—between Rockwell and the new town of Dougherty, a distance of twelve miles. As we look back into those forty years we cannot help noticing the change. Now we have a house on every quarter section and quite frequently on every eighty acres.

It would be a pleasure to the writer to make personal mention of the settlers as they arrived here, but this would be a laborious task and would fill several pages, besides we understand there will be a part of this work giving biographical sketches of families from knowledge procured from themselves. I merely wish to point out the current events in the early settlement and development of the township and give the names of the few early pioneers who blazed the way that others might follow, and by their pluck, energy and perseverance, established a settlement here when this country was practically a wilderness, making it to blossom and to bloom like a garden of flowers. In 1875 a number of families came here from near Madison, Wisconsin, and about the same time a colony came from the mining district of Pennsylvania and settled on farms in different parts of the township.

*Organic.*—The township was organized in 1870 and was named Prairie but in 1871 it was changed to Dougherty in honor of its first settler, Daniel Dougherty. The first general election was held October 11, 1870, when the following officers were elected: Daniel Dougherty, Hugh Dougherty and T. H. Harris, trustees; John McManus, township clerk; R. Connaughton and T. H. Harris, justices of the peace; P. Moran, assessor; P. Moran and Hugh Dougherty, constables; R. Connaughton, road supervisor.

The first white child born in the township was John, a son of

Daniel and Mary Dougherty, whose birth occurred July 1, 1863, his parents taking him all the way to Waverly, fifty miles distance, in their lumber wagon, to have him baptized. The first death was Joseph Kirk, a veteran of the Civil war, who died in 1870 and was buried in the Catholic cemetery here. The first marriage was that of Thomas Conners to Mary Cahill which occurred in March, 1878.

*Schools.*—The first school was built on section 36, in 1864, and was taught by Miss Elizabeth Irvin of Clayton county, John Humphrey and Daniel Dougherty furnishing the scholars. In time, this building became too small to accommodate the pupils and was replaced by a better and a larger house in 1870, John McManus teaching the first school in the newly organized township.

Today there are nine public schools and a parochial school in the township, the latter presided over by five sisters of the Presentation order, their headquarters being at Dubuque.

*Religions.*—The first public worship offered in the township was the sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by Rev. Father Murphy of Waverly, in the school house in 1865. In 1871 a comfortable church was built by Rev. Father Feely of Charles City, but before its completion he was removed and was succeeded by Rev. D. J. Flannery, now of Davenport, who finished the structure. The settlement had grown so large that in 1875 this church had become too small and was enlarged by Rev. Father Riley of Mason City. Again in 1890 it was found to be inadequate to accommodate the congregation and was sold and a magnificent frame structure erected in its place together with a parochial school, Rev. M. Hogan being the pastor, who was then comfortably located in a residence of his own in connection with the church.

In the fall of 1896 both church and school were completely destroyed by fire, the loss being about \$15,000. But with a zeal and determination characteristic of the people of Dougherty they went to work and in less than two years time, phoenix-like, a better church and school rose from the ashes. Rev. Father O'Rieley is the pastor, who has also the supervision of the school, whose teachers rank among some of the best educators in the state of Iowa.

In 1890 a Union church was built on Frank Deitrich's farm now owned by Wm. Reed on section 10, but was afterwards moved into the new town of Cartersville, where it still remains. Rev. Miller, a Methodist clergyman, preached the first sermon.

In 1902 a Methodist church was built in the new town of Dougherty, in which services were held regularly, Rev. George Reynolds being the first pastor, but at the present time they have no regular pastor and the church is indefinitely closed.

*First Railroad.*—The first railroad train passed through the township in 1900, over the Chicago & Northwestern road, and gave the people a station where the new town of Dougherty now stands. The first bank was opened up the same year in a small frame building with C. H. McNider of Mason City president, and W. J. Christians, cashier. Today, a handsome brick structure has taken its place, Mr. McNider being still president and the genial Will Christians still behind the desk, with his son Charley, assistant cashier.

The first store and postoffice in the township was managed by Wm. Keenen, now of Rockwell, and was opened up in 1872, the postoffice being named after the stream which flows through the township, Coldwater. W. J. Fowler was the first blacksmith in the new town and also the first postmaster. The first general stores were conducted by Murphy and Drew, Arnold and Son, Mullen and Sons, McAloon and Rieley. P. Moran was the first to open up a hardware store, and Joseph Cribbs the first harness shop. A Mr. Weaver opened up the first drug store and a Mr. Swallow started in the same business. P. Rieley built and conducted the first hotel. Walter Wise, now of Mason City, was the first ticket agent, and Sweeney and Son, conducted the first livery barn. Nye, Schnider Fowler & Co. and the Northern Grain Co. built and operated the first grain elevators in 1900, but the farmers becoming dissatisfied with their prices and methods organized a company of their own and purchased the elevator owned by the Northern Grain Company, and are doing a very successful business.

E. M. Wilson owned and edited the first newspaper in 1902 and did the printing in James Dougherty's barn, naming the paper the *Dougherty World*. Some years later Oscar Lathrop purchased the paper and changed the name to *The World*, which name it still retains.

The first physician was Dr. Hunter, and the first lawyer was P. J. Dougherty. The first lawsuit was held in the school house, R. Connaughton being the justice, and D. Dougherty and T. H. Harris the attorneys on either side of the case.

*City Organization.*—The first mayor was D. Dougherty, with

E. M. Wilson as clerk. Councilmen: P. Moran, Jacob Lydog, West Wren, J. W. Fowler and Joseph Cribs; J. W. Christian, treasurer. The present council are R. Lalor, mayor; T. J. Brady, clerk; Jas. Dougherty, P. Moran, Jas. Brady, John Lipps and D. McLaughlin.

*Societies.*—The farmers have a very strong co-operative society with 150 members. The Modern Woodmen have another strong society, also the Catholic Foresters, and the Knights of Columbus have a branch society here. The ladies known as the Royal Neighbors are largely represented here. Besides there are three temperance societies affiliated with the Catholic church, who are doing a splendid work here in promoting the cause of total abstinence.

The writer does not claim that this sketch is without error, as the greater portion of it is written from memory, but has endeavored to be as accurate as possible, using every means within his reach to obtain facts just as they occurred.

In closing I feel that there is one class of whom little has been said in this brief chapter, and that is the heroic Christian pioneer mothers who acted a prominent part in the settlement and development of this township and county, who stood side by side with their husbands in every trial and struggle, encouraging and cheering them on in the great battle of life. Who cared for the family, teaching their children by word and example the way in which they should go. And who in the evening twilight would gather the children around them and teach them those lessons of Christian morality and virtue, so essential for their eternal welfare and good citizenship.

#### PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

When Pleasant Valley was first organized in 1876 it was a parallelogram, twelve miles long by six in breadth, and comprised congressional township 94, and ranges 21 and 22 west. In 1880 the western half of this original territory was detached and organized as Grimes township. As now constituted Pleasant Valley township comprises congressional township 94, range 21 west. The beautiful name "Pleasant Valley," is said to have been suggested by Robert Bugher, who settled in the township two years before its organization, in 1874. The name is not peculiarly appropriate, as one who enters the township is puzzled to find the "valley" on the flat and featureless surface of the township.



The township is watered by the West Fork and the Beaver Dam and their small tributaries. A large section of Pleasant Valley township is quite low and well adapted to meadow and pasture lands. Stock raising is, and has been, an important industry. In other parts the soil is a deep rich loam and some of the best grain land is found in Pleasant Valley township. The only natural timber in the township is in sections 34, 35 and 36, next to the Franklin county line, and is known as Shobe's Grove in honor of John Shobe, who first settled in Richland township, Franklin county in 1856. In 1876, the year the township was organized, he moved across the line into Cerro Gordo county and settled on section 34, Pleasant Valley township.

*Early Settlement.*—There was but little early settlement in Pleasant Valley and the little there was, was at Shobe's Grove, where timber and fuel could be had. To people living now, the supreme value, the necessity even of timber to the first settlers can hardly be fully appreciated. The only means of transportation was by wagon across an open country without roads or bridges and across innumerable creeks, rivers and sloughs so that neither building material nor fuel could be brought from a distance. And then there were the winter storms that swept across an open, level country with un-resisted and irresistible force. The natural timber furnished building material, fuel and a windbreak.

The first white man to settle in Pleasant Valley township was J. W. Goheen, who settled on section 35 in 1856.

The second settler was a Mr. Cortell, who settled on section 36, in either 1856 or 1857. It is said that Mr. Cortell was a member of the 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry. If so he did not enlist in Cerro Gordo county as an examination of the roster of that regiment of the soldiers enlisting in Cerro Gordo fails to disclose his name. In the roster of the 32nd Iowa Infantry from Franklin county there is the name of Warren Kittel. He was a private in Company H, and died of disease at Memphis, Tennessee, July 17, 1864. This is beyond doubt, the Mr. Cortell of the old history.

In 1864 Daniel Warner settled on section 35 in 1864, and in two years sold to William Bailey.

There were no more settlers so far as the records disclose, until 1870, when M. Austin settled on section 34.

From 1870 on, the stream of settlers that flowed into the township was tolerably steady, up to about 1887, at which time the

Mason City & Fort Dodge Railway was built through the township, when the steady stream turned to a temporary flood, and the population of the township speedily reached its probable maximum.

Harmon Dilts settled in 1871, William Carhart settled in 1872, Howard Rood, in 1873. Mr. Rood is at this writing, 1910, a resident of Rockwell, Cerro Gordo county, and is mayor of that town.

William Winter and Andrew W. Storer settled in 1873. N. E. Willard, Robert Bugher and Albert Cornell settled in 1874.

George Pollock settled in the township in 1875 and O. F. Hovey in 1876.

J. D. Abrams was born in Wayne county, New York, September 24, 1842. He came to Iowa in 1869, and in 1876, located on the northeast quarter of section 36, in Pleasant Valley township. In 1862, he enlisted in Company K, 75th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served his country three years, or during the war. He participated in the battles of Perryville and Stone River. He fought at Chickamauga, where the firmness of General Thomas saved the Union army from destruction and gave that heroic commander the title of the "Rock of Chickamauga." As a private soldier carrying a musket and bayonet he charged up the rocky sides of Lookout Mountain, where General Joe Hooker led the Union soldiers in the "Battle above the Clouds." He swept with Sherman to the sea and campaigned up through the Carolinas and marched proudly through the streets of Washington in the last "Grand Review." At the close of his service he was mustered out and returned to his home in Illinois and went to farming. In 1867 he married Miss Olmerce Shandy and nine years later settled in Pleasant Valley township.

William Hunt and O. B. Moran settled in the township in 1877 and Michael Moroney in 1878.

*Organic.*—On September 18, 1876, a petition was respectfully laid before the board of supervisors asking that congressional township 94, range 21, be organized into a civil township and receive the name of Pleasant Valley. This petition was signed by R. Bugher, A. Connell, W. E. Thompson, A. W. Storer, Nelson Jones, Clement Jones, W. A. Paddock, O. F. Hovey, Alfred Hovey, Thos. B. Douglass, John Sholl, C. W. Strobe, Chas. Derrer, George Pollock, W. R. Barlow, M. Carver, T. Helm and J. W. Goheen. The prayers of the petitioners were granted by the board of supervisors and an election for the new township was ordered.

This first election was held in the Bugher school house on the 7th day of November, 1876, and the civil township of Pleasant Valley, Cerro Gordo county, was duly organized in the centennial year of the independence of the United States. At this election W. E. Thompson, Robert Bugher and Harmon Dilts acted as judges and A. W. Storer and J. D. Abrams as clerks of election.

The following named persons were elected as the first officers of the new township: Township trustees, John Shobe, N. E. Willard and George Pollock. George Pollock failed to qualify and Harmon Dilts was appointed to fill the vacancy. Township clerk, J. D. Abrams; township assessor, O. F. Hovey; justices of the peace, Robert Bugher and W. E. Thompson. And so Pleasant Valley became an independent commonwealth.

*Early Education.*—The first school in what was afterward Pleasant Valley township was taught in a small school house at Shobe's Grove. The funds to support this school were drawn from Geneseo township of which at that time Pleasant Valley formed a part.

The second school house, known as the Bugher school house, and the one in which the first election was held, was built on section 9 on land donated by Robert Bugher, who was the prime mover in obtaining the school. This school house was built during the summer of 1875 and in the winter following Miss Lizzie Egloff of Mason City, taught the first school.

In 1876 what is known as the Hovey school house was built on section 25. Miss E. J. Hovey taught the first school in this school house.

In 1878 two more school houses were built, one on section 28 and the other on section 14. The one on section 14 is known far and wide as the "Pony" school house. It is said the name came originally from the small size of the school house. Miss Lizzie Haddon was the first teacher in the "Pony" school.

The first marriage in Pleasant Valley township was that of Abram Chase and Miss Hattie Hunt. J. B. Piersol, a justice of the peace at Rockwell, performed the ceremony.

The first death was that of a child of Howard W. Rood.

In 1887 the Mason City & Fort Dodge Railroad was built through the township and a station possessing the euphonious name of "Swaledale" was established within the borders of Pleasant Valley. A village sprang up which, although restricted in tribu-

tary territory, is still holding its own as a local trading point and market. It has a good school, several churches, stores, a hotel, restaurants, an elevator, a private bank, etc. At one time it had a newspaper called the *Swaledale Bee*, but this having a rather checkered career, at last gave up the ghost. Later there was a paper called the *Record* established.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

### CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP.

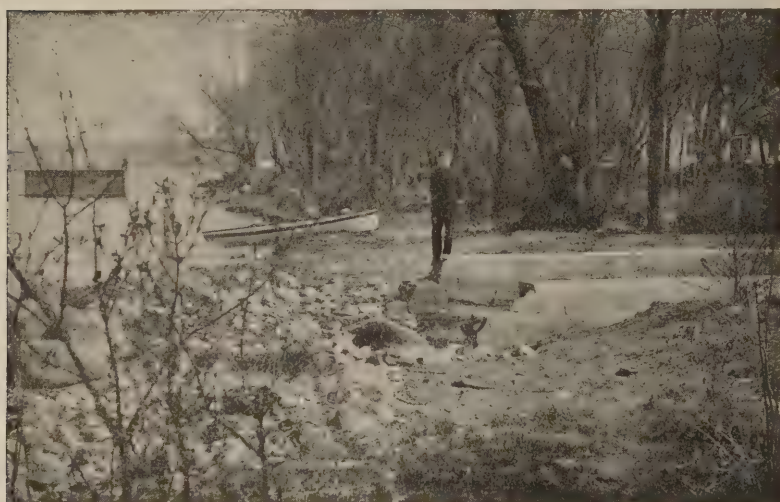
HISTORY OF CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP—EARLY SETTLEMENT—THE SHORES OF CLEAR LAKE THE FIRST TO ATTRACT SETTLERS—THE REASON WHY SETTLERS CAME TO CLEAR LAKE AND CERRO GORDO COUNTY—CHARACTER AND MINGLED MOTIVES OF FIRST SETTLERS—THE TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE—FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN—EARLY ADDITIONS—EARLY HISTORY—EARLY MAILS—STORY OF AMOS GARRETT—CLEAR LAKE SCHOOLS—SOCIETIES—RELIGIONS—HOTELS—CAMPMEETING GROUNDS—BUSINESS—BANKS—AS A SUMMER RESORT.

This township takes its name from the lake of that name situated within its borders. It is bounded on the east by Lake township, on the north by Grant, on the west by Hancock county and on the south by Union township, and comprises the territory of congressional township 96, range 22 west.

The township lies wholly within the limits of the Altamont moraine and its topography is characteristic of that region. The bed of Clear Lake is but a wide furrow plowed out by the great Wisconsin glacier surrounded by heaps of detritus left by the melting ice. There are no streams in the township except the south branch of Willow creek which is the outlet of the lake. There is a comparatively large body of timber in the neighborhood of the lake. There are also many groves of planted woodland scattered over the township. The soil of the township is the same as that of the other townships within the limits of the Altamont moraine. It seems to be better adapted to the growth of trees than the level plains of the Iowan drift.

*Early Settlement.*—It is often a matter for wonderment to men living sixty years later, how it was that a section of country so remote from settlements and civilization as Cerro Gordo should be

settled at so early a date. From the western border of Cerro Gordo county to the Mississippi river bluffs the country is fertile, there is plenty of timber, there are abundant creeks and rivers and a diversified scenery. Why did white men pass this country by and come to the Cerro Gordo wilderness and make settlement? Why court the isolation, hardships and dangers of a remote frontier when homes closer to kith and kin, to markets and all the advantages of a settled and civilized country could be had almost for the asking? There must have been more than one reason, more than one cause, for certainly all those who came to Cerro Gordo sixty years since



OUTLET, CLEAR LAKE.

could not have been actuated by the same, single motive. But the fact that they did come, proves conclusively that there existed adequate reasons for their doing so.

As one comes to know the names of the men of the fifties, the pioneers of sixty years since, he is surprised at the number of those names that are missing. One looks almost in vain for these missing names in the cemeteries, those abodes of the dead on the knolls and hillsides. Only a few of the pioneers of the fifties await the Judgment day in the burying grounds of Cerro Gordo; only a few are still among us. Where are they? They are scat-

tered. They began to scatter even in the fifties and by the end of the sixties were mostly gone. They possessed the "wanderlust" of the pioneer. They came from new countries where they had already been pioneers or the sons of pioneers and they went to newer lands when Cerro Gordo grew old to them, although really still in its early childhood. Some went to Minnesota, some to Kansas, some to Nebraska, some to the Dakotas and many went to the far off Pacific coast, years ago, while Cerro Gordo was still a new country. This class of people came to Cerro Gordo for the same reason that they went from Cerro Gordo elsewhere and as their kind went from one frontier to the next; always marching to a newer Canaan, always with a new El Dorado in sight. Their ancestors crossed the Atlantic, as their ancestors had crossed the North Sea and the Straits of Dover and as their ancestors had once crossed the Mediterranean or treked from Central Asia. All men were once nomads and in the breast of even civilized man there sleeps the wanderlust of a nomadic ancestry. The presence of pathless woods, boundless prairies and towering mountain ranges, awakens to life the spirit of his remote ancestors who for dim ages wandered over the plains and through the woods and climbed the mountain ranges in the primitive world.

Then there were those who were truly in search of homes, but they wanted the first choice in the selection. The choicest places along the intervening rivers had already been pre-empted by those who had gone before and it was not until these true homeseekers had reached the Shell Rock, the Lime and Clear Lake that they were able to find a virgin land.

And there were the hunters and trappers; the men who felt and obeyed the call of the wild.

And there were quite a few who came simply because somebody else, rover, homeseeker or hunter, had come.

The first white men known to have been at Clear Lake were two hunters by the names of Billings and Clark. This was in 1849. The hostility of the Indians drove these two hunters out of the country. But if Billings and Clark were here in 1849, it is quite probable that during the years which elapsed from the coming of the French voyagers to the coming of Billings and Clark, there were other hunters and rovers who also saw the "Beautiful Land." Certain it is that reports of a paradise beyond the Cedar, where rivers flowed through woodland and meadow and where there was a beautiful lake surrounded by wooded hills and bordered by a



shining strand, reached the settlements along the Mississippi at least as early as 1850 and probably earlier.

Along with the stories of the beauty of the country were accounts of the abundance of fish and game, of beast and fowl, of geese and ducks and quail and grouse; of deer and elk and buffalo, of bear and wolf and beaver. This new land that lay off in the west was painted by rumor and thrice-told tale as the paradise of the hunter, the trapper, the voyager and the settler. Rumor flies on the wind but the tales were told by wandering Winnebagoes whose temporary heritage and home it had once been. There were also roving white men, self appointed explorers, who were really mere knights of adventure for adventure's sake, and these, like the twelve spies sent from the wilderness by Joshua to spy out the Promised Land, brought back stirring stories of the new Eden.

Among those who heard these tales were Joseph Hewitt, an Indian trader and interpreter, and James Dickirson, who, in 1851, were living at Strawberry Point in Clayton county, so impressed were these two with the story of the beautiful land towards the setting sun and especially of the lake that lay embosomed amid the wooded hills, that, in the spring of 1851, each with his team and outfit, including his wife and child, started on the westward trek, bound for the new Eden. They started on the 20th day of May and reached the shores of Clear Lake on July 14th, following. From Clear Lake to Strawberry Point is about 100 miles as the crow flies, but Hewitt and Dickirson probably traveled not far from 150 miles in making the journey. Even at that, fifty-six days was a long time to be on the way. They could not hurry for there were no roads, and there was fish to be caught from the streams and game to be shot from the trees and prairies and as they could not carry feed for their horses, time had to be taken for allowing their teams to graze. And then there was the stress of storm and swollen, bridgeless streams, as well as the uncertainty of the trackless way, to stand in the way of expeditious travel. They found few scattering settlers along the way and none after leaving the last settlement, consisting of three families, near where the town of Bradford now stands. After that they had to blaze their own trail, for there was nothing to mark the way. When they had almost reached their goal and the wooded hills were in plain sight that hid the lake only a mile away, they found an unfordable stream. It was the south fork of Willow creek, the outlet of Clear Lake. They finally succeeded in crossing, near the old Andrew Swarts place, after a two day's delay.



On the south shore of the lake, under the spreading top of a large burr-oak tree, its foliage reinforced by a large grape vine, the group of white people found a temporary abiding place. They had returned to the primitive. The tree stood not far from the spot afterward occupied by the Ed Atkins house.

The summer days that followed and those of early autumn, were the words, the weeks were the lines and the months the stanzas of an idyl of the primitive, of a time when the world was young; a time that can never come again. The men hunted and fished and made exploring expeditions. The summer was beautiful, with its scarlet bloom, its green vistas and the purple lake rippling in the sun. But beautiful as was the summer, the autumn was a thousand-fold more so. Beside every copse, on every hill, in every valley and over the spreading prairies, were great clusters of purple asters and endless bloom of gold, of wild sunflower and goldenrod, while the lake lay spread out like a purple tunic between, and surrounded by the gold and scarlet and russet of the autumn woods.

The season proved rather rainy and the streams were all filled with water and the sloughs were quagmires. For the little party to return was impossible and so, like Robinson Crusoe, they determined to live on the resources of the country and their own efforts. A warm cabin and stable were constructed and the winter prepared for. In a cabin near their summer camping ground these eight persons, Joseph Hewitt, James Dickirson, their wives and children and John Alloway and Henry Robinson, two young men who had accompanied them, spent the winter of 1851-2, shut off from all communication with the outside world. In the spring Alloway and Robinson returned to Strawberry Point. In the spring of 1852, Dickirson, who was really the farmer and settler of the little colony, claimed the land where Clear Lake now stands and also a tract of land east of the lake. He cleared off some brush land and raised a crop of corn on the ground afterward occupied by the Rosecrans and Robinson places, and adjoining on the south. This was the first grain grown by white men in Cerro Gordo county.

The two families passed the summer and winter of 1852-3 with no visitors except an occasional Indian or hunter. The only visitor they had during the winter of 1851-2 was Wm. Garnis, who called on them in February, 1852, and stayed with them for three or four days that his team might rest.

In 1853, the Sirrines, James and Robert, and Rowland Gard-

ner came and made settlement. Michael Callam or Callanan came in 1854, as did also Messrs Rice and Alloway. In 1855 the following settled in the Clear Lake settlement: H. A. Stiles, Rowland Gardner, Harvey Luce, E. A. Tuttle, Andrew Butterfield, William Wilson, Abram Bennett, Peter Parrish, James B. Wood, Chas. A. Meddaugh. Calvin S. Goodwin came in 1856, as also did A. B. Tuttle, Chas. Gillispie, Elnathan Crowell, Marcus Tuttle, J. Crow, Oscar Stevens, Edward Nichols, Thomas Palmer, Silas Card, Amos Garrett, Reuben Humphreyville, and many others. In fact it is impossible to name all of the settlers of these early days. A work giving all the details and names of early settlement can only be undertaken by a county historical society.

*First Events.*—The first marriage in Clear Lake township was that of a Mr. Fletcher and Miss Emma Morris in 1855.

The first birth was a son to Mr. and Mrs. James McCibbins.

The first death was that of the wife of Levi Lawrence, who died sometime in 1855 or 1856.

*Organic.*—Upon the organization of the county there were but three townships, one of which was called Lake, and Clear Lake township was a part of Lake township. The first election was held in November, 1856. At this election H. G. Parker and A. B. Tuttle were elected justices of the peace.

#### THE TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE.

“During 1855 a large number of new settlers came in and lands were taken up, and a settlement commenced in earnest. Joseph Hewitt entered land and laid out the town of Clear Lake City, on the south side of the lake, which was surveyed by the government surveyor and embraced the first camping ground. The following spring James Dickirson commenced a town which was laid out on the grounds now used for the cemetery, and this was called Clear Lake. It was afterward vacated and the town of Livonia laid out on the same lands during the county seat war of 1857. Large additions were made to Clear Lake City by Hewitt and R. O. Serrine and the town extended from the outlet of the lake to Mr. Callanan’s place, and at one time contained twenty-five dwellings.”

The present town of Clear Lake was laid out in 1856 by James

Dickirson and Marcus Tuttle, who owned the land. Twenty-three others took an interest with them in this townsite. J. Crow came early in 1856 and built a cabin on the lake shore, and when the town was laid out, built the house afterward occupied by William Collins, who used it for a hotel. The proprietors gave away lots the first year, and in the fall of 1856 there were about forty dwellings, and quite a town commenced, but the financial crash of 1857 caused an exodus, and, in 1858, there were only fifteen families left. The town is located on sections 12 and 13 township 96, range 22, and sections 7 and 8 of township 96, range 21. The following are among the earliest plats: 1855, Clear Lake City, by Joseph Hewitt and wife. Survey made by Samuel S. Montague.

Hewitt's addition was made by Joseph Hewitt, September 21, 1855. The survey was made by I. W. Card.

Sirriner's addition, section 24, was platted by Robert and Clarinda Sirrine, November 10, 1855.

Clear Lake town platted by James Dickirson and Marcus Tuttle and their wives, September 15, 1856. James Crow surveyed the plat.

The town plat of Livonia was filed June 11, 1857, by E. A. Tuttle, Orissa Tuttle, Marcus Tuttle and Caroline Tuttle. Livonia was located on sections 7 and 18.

Marcus Tuttle's addition was filed May 27, 1859. It was surveyed by John H. Ambrose.

Elon Tuttle's addition was made January 7, 1860. This was also surveyed by John H. Ambrose.

Sharp's addition was made by Joseph and Sarah Sharp, April 23, 1863.

Allen's addition was made January 5, 1865. George E. Frost was the surveyor.

There were other additions made during the seventies by different parties and there were also additions made during all the years that have elapsed since then down to this present year of 1910, but the list would be too long for enumeration and there would be little profit in giving it.

*Early History.*—The first goods sold at the settlement on the shores of Clear Lake was by Mr. Tuttle. Thomas Palmer, however, built the first store and put in the first regular stock of goods.

During the summer of 1856, Oscar Stevens and Edward Nichols built a steam saw mill and commenced sawing lumber for the settle-

ment around the Lake. The boiler in the mill exploded in 1857 and destroyed the mill and machinery in a second's time.

The place of the Stevens & Nichols mill was taken by a large steam saw mill built the same year of the explosion by Marcus Tuttle. The mill furnished the whole country around with lumber from the native woods until the coming of the railroad in 1870, when pine lumber took the place of the native product.

*Early Mails.*—Like all the early settlers of interior Iowa during the early '50s, those around Clear Lake found one of the problems to be solved that of mail communication with the east. Up to 1856, the nearest federal postoffice was seventy miles distant, at Cedar Falls. It was a far cry from the general delivery wicket of the Cedar Falls postoffice to the distant shores of Clear Lake, and the mail sent east from the settlement and received from the east by the settlers had to be and was entrusted to the care of friendly and accommodating teamsters, unofficial rural carriers, to act as intermediaries between postoffice and patrons. These teamsters made their trips from the Clear Lake settlements to Dubuque, on the Mississippi river, for merchandise and other supplies needed by the settlers. Their route lay by the way of Cedar Falls and the postoffice at Cedar Falls being the nearest it was here the letters were mailed and the mail received for the settlers, not only at and around Clear Lake, but all along the route between. But as the trips made by the teamsters were intermittent and at exceedingly irregular intervals the Clear Lake settlers determined on securing something more nearly approaching regularity in the delivery of outward bound and incoming mail. Accordingly a private subscription was raised and the services of a mail carrier named Cummings were secured to make weekly trips between Cedar Falls and Clear Lake. But, even with the services of a regular weekly mail carrier, the delivery of mails was anything but regular. There were no roads or bridges and many streams and sloughs to be crossed; the wide, open prairies were often storm swept for days at a time and the streams were often flooded; so that, taking it altogether, there were times when weeks would intervene between mails.

In 1856 the federal government employed a regular mail carrier to take the mail route, and from that time on conditions were very much improved. This mail carrier, whose name will long be remembered, was Charles Johnson, of Shell Rock Falls.



The storms of spring and summer, autumn and winter came and went; floods swept the streams and snow drifts blocked the trail, but the settlers received their mail on practically schedule time. To eke out his regular pay, Johnson used an improvised mail coach in which he carried packages and occasional passengers with their baggage. But he never allowed any of these impedimenta to interfere with the carrying and delivery of the United States mail. If the route was impassable for his mail coach, he mounted a horse and in cases when it was impassable for even his horse, he went a-foot, using snow shoes to cross the fields and drifts of snow and building rafts to float himself and his mailbag across the streams that floods had turned into great rivers and broad lakes. Though mail coach, passengers, baggage and packages were left behind at wayside places, the mail went through. James Sirrine succeeded Johnson as mail carrier. The mail finally became semi-weekly and finally a tri-weekly, and a four-horse stage coach carried mail and passengers between Clear Lake and Charles City.

#### THE STORY OF AMOS GARRETT.

Every country has had its age of chivalry; its time when all its women were chaste and fair and all its men courteous and bold. The Clear Lake settlement is no exception to this quite general rule. It too had its age of chivalry; its golden age when its Hewitts, its Dickirsons, its Sirrines, its Goodwins and their veteran compeers stood forth as the brave and courteous defenders of the weak and the helpless; its days when the wives, sisters and daughters of these stout and worthy men were "ladyes faire" fit to be wooed and won and wedded by the bravest and the truest of men.

Among the brave knights who foregathered along the shores of Clear Lake during the age of chivalry was a warrior of great personal prowess, stout of heart and brave to rashness, named Amos Garrett. The stout men of the Clear Lake settlement were glad to learn the art of war at the feet of this prairie viking and listen to the warlike tales of the lion-hearted Amos. He had killed Indians by the score and it was his custom to threaten with dire vengeance any band of Sioux war bucks who should have the temerity to attack the Clear Lake settlement. All things come to those who wait, and the chance to prove his mettle came to Amos Garrett.

A company of hunters encamped one quiet evening among the wooded knobs that add to the picturesqueness of Clear Lake

scenery. After building a roaring campfire, they emptied their rifles, by firing them harmlessly in the air, partly as a matter of custom and partly as a friendly salute to the friendly settlers. From the door of his cabin Amos saw the glare of the fire through the trees and bushes and the thought of incendiary fires by the predatory and merciless Sioux swept through his mind. He was about to start on a cautious tour of inspection when the blood curdling sounds of a fusillade of firearms mingled with the warwhoops of savages and shrieks of the settlers reached his ears. Of course we know that the fusillade was only the hunters emptying their rifles and the human outcries were merely the joyous shouts of a half dozen urchins who had gathered at the hunter's campfire. But Amos could not and did not know this. Stricken with what now seems a reasonable, or at least an excusable panic, Amos ordering his family to fly for their lives and throwing the next youngest of his children astride his neck he led his family in flight toward the distant settlement on the Shell Rock and Cedar. His wife, clasping the youngest child to her bosom and followed by the remainder of the family, followed the flying Amos in his flight through the trees and underbrush toward the east. Amos soon grew short of breath and weary of limb under the weight of his lusty offspring, and try as he would he soon found himself in the rear of his fleeing family. O Amos, Amos, we know what you ought to have done. We know your duty demanded that you stop there and with your face to the redskin foe have died fighting for your own blood. Instead, Amos, you cast your fifty pounds of offspring on the ground and telling them to take care of themselves you dashed on ahead, leaving your devoted family to its fate, and ran and stumbled and fell and arose to run and stumble and fall again and again, all through the terrible night until, in the early gray of the morning you reached the settlements on the Shell Rock and told the settlers there your tale of massacre at Clear Lake. We know, Amos, how you remained cowering in the Shell Rock cabins while armed and stout hearted settlers rode to Clear Lake and found everything peaceful and serene there with your shamed and angry wife and your happy and thoughtless children playing around your cabin door. O Amos, Amos, where was your lion courage, your heart of oak? It is a tale that is told, Amos, how in a few days you came sneaking back to your up-braiding wife and your jeering neighbors. Alas, poor Amos, you could not endure the jibes of your fellow settlers and so, one day, you yoked your faithful and trusty and

withal, patient oxen and, hitching them to your wagon, you took your family and your household goods and yourself out of the knowledge of the historian and therefore out of history.

*Early Education.*—Tradition has it that the first school in Clear Lake was taught in a log house owned by Joseph Hewitt. So far as known, this was also the first school taught in the county. The teacher was Miss Elizabeth Gardner. Miss Gardner was a sister of the well known Abbie Gardner Sharp whose book on the Spirit Lake Massacre has been read by so many of the people of Iowa. Elizabeth Gardner's engagement to teach the Clear Lake school saved her from massacre with her family or captivity with her sister. This first school was taught in the summer of 1855. To those interested in the compensation of teachers in our modern schools, it will be of interest to note that Miss Gardner received one dollar per scholar and her board and the school had an average attendance of seventeen scholars. Miss Gardner afterward married William Wilson, of Mason City, who froze to death near that place.

It is also a matter of oral tradition that the next school taught at the Clear Lake settlement was in 1856, by Mrs. Stiler.

The first teacher whose name appears on the district record is Reuben Humphreyville, and his contract bears date of December 14, 1857, and was signed by himself and James Serrine, A. B. Tuttle and T. S. Palmer, as directors. Mr. Humphreyville received \$30 per month for a term of three and a half months. Considering the times this was a very fair rate of compensation.

The next recorded contract was that made with Susan Tompkins, June 1, 1858. This contract was for a twelve weeks' term, at four dollars per week.

The records do not disclose the fact, but it is a matter of oral tradition that the next teacher was W. N. Skinner. This was for the summer of 1858.

The next contract appearing on the record is that made with A. E. Howard, on the 29th day of November, 1858. This was for a winter term of four months, at the rate of \$25 per month.

On the 19th day of May, 1859, Miss A. M. Whitney succeeded Mr. Howard in the Clear Lake school. She received \$5 per week of five and a half days.

J. M. Brainard taught the next term, his contract bearing date

of October 23, 1859, and was for forty weeks and a consideration of \$318.

This brings the school down to the beginning of the sixties. During the sixties there were the following teachers of record: George Griffith, Nathan Bass, Jean Duncan, Ira Kling, Della Camp, Florine Bloom, John McGraw, Miss Sweeney, Fanny Hicks, and Alice Rosecrans.

The first school house built in Clear Lake was in 1857, and this served until 1869, a period of twelve years. We quote the following from the Clear Lake *Observer*, 1876.

#### THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE.

“The old school house, as it is now called, was built by M. Bumgardner, in 1857, and still stands in this village, and could its history be written in full, what a record it would yield up. Here our schools were kept for years. The young of our township assembled here, and with few exceptions, acquired their entire school education within its walls. Here all religious meetings were held, and the people of all the country around gathered together therein. Although the house was but twenty-six feet square there was room for all, all equals; all denominations could listen to the same preacher, and the open hand of fellowship, friendship and pioneer equality was extended to all within its walls. Here the teachers of our county assembled for their institutes. The politician stood on its rostrum, and made promises to his constituents; the boys met here in their debating clubs; the Good Templars in their lodge; the girls came to the old school house to singing school. On its floor stood sixteen of Clear Lake’s best and bravest boys, who raised their hands to heaven, and took upon themselves the oaths to serve their country as soldiers and protect their country’s flag. Here they met to exchange a last farewell, and but few of them returned to its walls. Here friends met to pay the last sad rites to departed friends, and hear words of consolation from the minister. Here the wife, mother, child, brother and sister met when near the end of a long week the anxiously looked for mail was expected to arrive and bring tidings from loved ones away in the army. Here for nineteen years the annual election has been held and the ballot box contest been decided; here courts of justice have been nearly all held; forensic eloquence has flowed freely; here disputes be



tween neighbors have been settled; innocence established and guilty ones started from it to prison; here young men and maidens have come to be made as one."

In 1869 a new school house was built near the Methodist church. This answered until 1872, when still another was built. This proved satisfactory until 1890, when the present school house, a goodly sized brick veneered building was erected. This, however, in a few years, proved inadequate to the growing demands and an addition of brick was added to the school house. With the increasingly rapid growth of the new Clear Lake, another school is only a matter of time. Present enrollment, 400.

#### POSTOFFICE.

The Clear Lake postoffice was first established in 1856, with Joseph Hewitt as postmaster. Hewitt kept his office in his own residence at what used to be known as old Clear Lake. The duties of the office were not heavy nor the compensation excessive. Hewitt held the office for four years, or until 1859, when he was succeeded by Edwin Nichols. Nichols held the office for three years until 1862, at which time he was succeeded by George E. Frost. One can judge of the duties as well as the compensation of the Clear Lake postoffice in those early days by the fact that the total receipts of the office for the two first quarters amounted to but \$9.38. Frost continued as postmaster until the comparatively modern period of 1875, except an interval of six months, during which time Marcus Tuttle was postmaster. Alexander Campbell succeeded Frost in 1875 and held the office until 1877, a period of two years. In 1877 George E. Frost was again tendered the office, but as he had had enough of its honors and compensation, he exerted his influence in securing the appointment of A. D. Eldridge. In 1883 the office became a presidential office and the salary was fixed at \$1,200. The present postmaster is William Gray, who was appointed in 1908. The salary is now \$1,800 per annum. There is somewhat of a contrast between the Clear Lake postoffice of 1910 and the Clear Lake postoffice of 1856 and that contrast will increase as the years come and go.

*Societies.*—Tom Howard Post No. 101, of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organized October 15, 1882. The name "Tom Howard Post" was adopted in honor of Lieutenant Thomas Howard

of Company B, 23rd Iowa, a gallant soldier from Clear Lake, who was killed at the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. We have elsewhere in this work given a short sketch of Lieutenant Howard, but in this place quote the following, published in a county paper shortly after the preliminary meeting held for the organization of the Clear Lake post:

“The old soldiers of Clear Lake have held a preliminary meeting and will organize a post of the G. A. R. with the above name. No more appropriate title could be found for this company of veterans than that of brave Tom Howard. The writer of this, and the brave lieutenant were borne off the bloody battlefield of Pleasant Hill together, on that terrible evening of April 9, 1864; poor Tom shot through the bowels and the writer through the thigh. We lay side by side until long into the night on a grass plat in front of one of the houses of the village, and were then removed to a pig pen or cow shed which had been created into a hospital, and we were there separated never to meet again. The brave Howard knew that his was a mortal wound, but not a murmur escaped his lips, while his bright young life was ebbing slowly away, and our conversation was foreign to the horrors of war. The 23rd contained scores of good, brave men, but none braver, better or more beloved than Lieutenant Tom Howard of Company B. When the army retreated he was left in the hands of the rebels, and his body lies buried in the pine-clad hills of Louisiana, but his noble spirit has received a better reward, and the boys of the Lake are to be commended for the selection of so good a name to designate their post.”

The charter members of the Tom Howard Post were: J. B. Charlton, H. A. Groves, Ed Nichols, G. W. Richardson, James McLaughlin, D. K. Williamson, G. W. Donaldson, William H. Shenafelt, William Cox, John Phillips, J. Bowers, Fred Sheldon, Charles Smith, Benjamin Leonard, F. Landenberg, E. Newton, A. Cotterell, A. R. Netley, J. Sprague, J. A. Smith, C. A. Hurning, George H. Prime.—A Roll of Honor.

The Tom Howard Post still flourishes on the beautiful shores of Clear Lake. Although death has thinned the ranks of the twenty-two charter members, others have come and taken their places and the present enrollment or roster numbers fifty-four. The present officers are W. H. Berkly, Com.; David A. Garlock,

S. V.; James McLaughlin, J. V.; W. W. Wimans, Adj.; F. M. Rogers, Q. M.; G. W. Richardson, Sur.; I. I. Thompson, Chap.; J. A. Smith, O. D.; W. D. Hartsough, P. I.; C. H. Cooley, O. G.; S. W. Wallis, S. M.; S. H. Hysham, O. M. S.

Verity Lodge No 250, A. F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation from Grand Master John Scott, Friday, November 30, 1868, with the following officers: M. P. Rosecrans, W. M.; Marcus Tuttle, S. W.; Edwin Nichols, J. W.; Charles Walbridge, treasurer; George E. Frost, Sec.; R. O. Sirrine, S. D.; F. Folsom, J. D.; and James Dickirson, tyler. The present officers are Dr. C. E. Wright, W. M.; Ambrose Sherman, S. W.; C. L. Nichols, J. W.; J. W. Dawson, Sec.; F. M. Rogers, Treas.; Lee Boyd, S. D.; Harry Mason, J. D.

Clear Lake Lodge, No. 187, I. O. O. F., was organized under dispensation, February 4, 1870. The first officers were: J. W. Phillips, N. G.; N. W. Ellis, V. G.; D. S. Dodd, R. S.; H. P. Manning, P. S.; L. F. Knapping, Treas.; C. S. Goodwin, C.; George Gillmore, W.; Oscar Stevens and L. J. Thatcher, R. S. W. G. The officers in 1910 are: W. Hubbard, N. G.; J. F. Furse, V. G.; J. W. Parke, F. S.; C. O. Jackman, R. S.; H. H. Paulson, Treas.

"Tina" Lodge No. 101, Rebekah Degree of the I. O. O. F., work under dispensation granted them April 14, 1870. The first officers were: N. W. Ellis, N. G.; Minnie Stevens, V. G.; William McFadden, Sec.; Mrs. W. L. Bockhus, Treas. The officers in 1910 are: Inez Curoo, N. G.; Lilliam Jeffords, V. G.; Martha Philips, F. S.; Ida O. Pilson, R. S.; Hannah Bowers, Treas.

Memorial University Camp No. 300, S. of V., was organized about twenty years ago. The following are the officers for the year 1910: Ernest Minton, captain; C. F. Barlow, 1st lieutenant; Casper Tuttle, 2nd lieutenant; S. L. Carpenter, sec.; F. L. Rogers, treasurer.

Clear Lake also has a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, with the following officers: Gertrude Hayden, W. M.; C. E. Wright, W. P.; Kate Davis, A. M.; Mrs. Charles Knutson, C.; Hattie Williams, A. C.; Mrs. Ira Conklin, sec.; Mrs. S. J. Clausen, treas.; Mrs. R. A. Howard, chaplain; Mrs. Nelson, Ada; Mrs. Mark White, Ruth; Mrs. Dr. McIntosh Wright, Esther; Mrs. Carpenter, Martha; Mrs. S. R. Bird, Electa.

*Religions.*—To that good old militant church founded by John Wesley, belongs the honor of first planting the standard of the

Christian church on the shores of Clear Lake. The first sermon ever preached in Clear Lake was in 1857, by Elder Pattee, who also organized a class. The services were held in the house of Jos. Hewitt. Elder Pattee continued in the service of the little pioneer church he had founded until 1860, when his fervent spirit was called to the better land beyond the skies and his body, wearied with its labors, was laid to rest in the cemetery east of town. The society founded by Rev. Pattee was not incorporated until 1870. At that time the Des Moines district, at its session held for such purposes appointed Rev. James Williams to the circuit. The Rev. J. W. Todd, presiding elder of the Fort Dodge district, held the first quarterly meeting, of which J. M. Davis was recording secretary, and James Price, Ira L. Bailey, Marcus Tuttle, Levi Lloyd and James Tasker were elected trustees, and Yokum Lockwood, James Price, I. O. Davis and Mr. Dyer were elected stewards. A church building was purchased in 1871. In 1883 the society sold their old building and built in a more central location. Along in the later nineties the church building was rebuilt and made into the present modern structure.

A Baptist church was organized January 30, 1867, at the Clear Lake school house. The Baptists maintained a church organization for many years but it has been discontinued.

The Congregational church was organized at Clear Lake in 1870, by Rev. A. S. Allen, who continued to be the pastor until 1876, a period of six years. His labors were under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society. The first organization consisted of but nine members, and six years later when Rev. Allen closed his labors the society had increased to but twenty-six. The Congregational and Methodist societies built a union church, that finally became the sole property of the Methodists, after which the Congregationalists built a church of their own. At the close of the pastorate of Rev. Allen, Rev. R. R. Wood was called and served the church until 1878. Under his ministry the church membership increased to forty and the church building started by Rev. Allen was completed. The present Congregational church was built in the later nineties.

On Sunday August 14th, 1910, the new Catholic church was dedicated at Clear Lake. This church building will, when finished, cost \$4,000. To the Rev. Malloy is due much of the credit for the building of this new church.

The Adventists had a society at Clear Lake several years ago



of which James Dickirson and Isaac Pizer were the first deacons and C. S. Goodwin was the clerk. The society has ceased to exist.

The Christian Scientists have a society at Clear Lake.

The city park of Clear Lake was laid out with the town in 1856, or rather a space of land was set apart for park purposes. This park land fronted the lake and contained quite a number of native trees. The park was left as it had been at the time the town was laid out in 1856, until 1872, when E. E. Frost, a public-spirited citizen and at the time editor of the Clear Lake *Observer*, in an editorial in that paper, suggested that "May Day" of that year be observed by planting trees in the park. Each person was requested to plant one or more trees. This timely suggestion was well heeded and before sundown, May 1st, the citizens had planted 1,500 trees of various varieties, each tree bearing the name of its donor for several months. At this date, the fall of 1910, these trees, planted in 1872, are as large as forest trees and give their aid towards giving Clear Lake one of the finest parks in the country.

In passing it may be well to note that Clear Lake has long been possessed of, for the size of the place, a first-class fire department and has a good system of city water works, including a pumping station, well equipped, including a stand pipe in the midst of the park, eighty feet high.

In 1878 Clear Lake was for the first time connected with the outside world by telephone, when telephonic communication was established with both Mason City and Algona.

Among the beautiful cemeteries in the county is that of Clear Lake, which is located to the eastward of the lake something more than half a mile. The cemetery was first laid out by James Dickirson in 1857. It was replatted in 1872.

*Incorporation*.—Clear Lake was incorporated as a town in 1871. W. A. Stanley was the first mayor. At the present rate of growth it is only a question of a short time when the town will be organized as a city of the second class. The present city government is composed of the following officers: Mayor, D. H. Campbell; members of the council, H. E. Palmeto, E. H. Rich, Ira Stewart, Harry Kewl, F. L. Rogers; clerk, J. C. Davenport; W. W. Hyde, marshal.

*Hotels*.—The first hotel in Clear Lake was built by James Crow in the winter of 1855. This "hotel" or "tavern" was of the most

primitive character. Crow was succeeded by O. P. Harper, Elnathan Crowell and Dr. Stanbery. Subsequently the Lake House was built by James Dickirson, who occupied it, as landlord, for several years, when he leased it to J. H. Woolsey and finally sold it to John Chestnut. The Phillips House was opened in 1869 by J. W. Phillips. The Felt House once stood near the Phillips House, but in 1877 was moved to a point opposite the park, where for a time it was run as a turkish bath house, but was later remodeled and again operated as a hotel. In 1876 J. M. Emerson came from Dubuque and erected a pretentious hotel. This was built on an island and was at the time one of the finest hotels in the state and was intended as a high-grade summer resort. But the time was too early. In connection with the hotel Mr. Emerson had charge of the steamer "Lady of the Lake" which made connection with the trains. The hotel was leased to Brown & Engels and later to a Mr. Bergh of New York City, who operated it until 1875, when it was destroyed by fire. The building and furniture were valued at \$30,000.

Lake View House was built in 1876 by L. V. Davis, midway between the village and the camp ground park. The same year the Park House, located on the state camp grounds, was built by the Camp Ground Association. Both the Lake View and Park House were run as summer hotels, as was also the Webster House, just east from the camp grounds. The regular hotels, doing a commercial business during the eighties, were the Lake, Phillips and Felt Houses. The Stevens House was built and ready for occupancy May 1, 1882. At the present time the Elks is a large commercial hotel of a high grade. The Oaks is a celebrated summer hotel. The Whittaker has been converted into a flat. The Silsby hotel-restaurant is a first grade commercial hotelry.

#### OLD CLEAR LAKE MILLS.

As early as 1856 Edward Nichols and Oscar Stevens built and put in operation a steam saw mill at Clear Lake, the first to be built there. It was operated by Nichols and Stevens for about two years when the explosion nearly destroyed the mill. Nichols then sold out to Stevens, who refitted the mill and operated it for six years. This mill was finally moved to Emmettsburg. A few years later Marcus Tuttle built a steam saw mill in the village near the lake shore. L. V. Davis afterwards had charge. This

mill was later converted into a barn. In 1869 the first flouring mill was built at Clear Lake by Oscar Stevens near the outlet of the lake. This mill was owned by Z. Luddington. When it was finished Stevens bought a half interest in the mill and later became sole owner. Not long after this mill was burned and Stevens built another which was an important industry for several years. Clear Lake has a great future but it does not lie along industrial lines.

#### STATE CAMP MEETING GROUNDS.

A history of the celebrated Clear Lake "camp meeting" and its grounds is interesting from every point of view. Upon the organization of the Northwestern Iowa M. E. Conference, held at Ft. Dodge in the fall of 1871, Rev. John Hogarth Lozier, of that conference, was appointed chairman of a committee to select a site for a conference camp ground. This committee visited various points in the conference, including Okoboji and Spirit lakes, and finally decided in favor of Clear Lake as the most suitable place, all things considered, for a camp meeting ground, and also for a summer resort. It is well at this time to take notice of the reasons why this committee chose Clear Lake as a site for a camp ground and a summer resort, for the very reasons that decided this committee in its choice are as potent today as they were thirty-nine years ago, and will, within a very few years, give Clear Lake a supremacy among interior or inter-ocean summer resorts.

These reasons were, first, because Clear Lake was bountifully supplied with fish; second, because its waters were better sheltered by beautifully wooded hills than any of the other lakes, and therefore safer for sailing parties on the lake as well as pleasanter and less exposed to wind and storm for attendants at the camp meetings; third, its extensive sloping and shallow bathing beaches were safer for women and children; fourth, its waters were warmer and pleasanter and better suited for bathing, its grounds are better suited for camp ground purposes. So much better was the Clear Lake location for the purposes indicated than others, that the conference decided to invite the other conferences to unite in making it the site for, not merely a conference camp ground, but a state camp ground, and this was decided on.

The grounds were accordingly purchased and improvements were made. The ministers in the various conferences agreed to

and did aid in raising necessary funds. With this understanding an association was formed of which Rev. Lozier was made president; Cyrus Spaulding, vice president; Rev. R. W. Keeler, secretary; J. Garmone, treasurer, and Edward Shaw, superintendent. These constituted the board of managers, under whose supervision the grounds were cleared, buildings erected and the enterprise carried to a high degree of perfection. Then came the panic of 1873 and Lozier became somewhat involved. Through the aid of Truman Woodford, of Milwaukee, he pulled the enterprise through, Lozier, however, became involved in scandal regarding his administration, but a thorough investigation gave him absolute vindication. The church then rallied once more to the support of the enterprise and matters went well for several years. The camp meeting grounds, however, eventually passed into the hands of the "Western Lakes Resort Company." In 1910 this company was reorganized and are making improvements and planning more for the immediate future.

*Business.*—The first to engage in trade in Clear Lake was T. S. Palmer, or Tom Palmer, as he used to be known, who opened a general store in 1855. The next store was that of P. F. Sturgess, who built a store building on Main street. Then came a general store by Brainard and Noyes, in 1862, and then Tuttle and Goodwin, and following them, M. P. Rosecrans.

The first exclusive hardware store was operated by Mr. Moore, who was succeeded by Palmetter Bros.

The first exclusive grocery store was that of N. Carpenter in 1868. Carpenter was followed by T. S. Sampson and he by a man named Twitchell and he by F. Clemont.

The drug trade was first represented by Mayes & Hall, in 1871. They sold to Smith & Prime and later Smith bought out Prime. In 1871, M. P. Rosecrans and Dr. McDowell also opened a drug store. After a year Rosecrans sold his interest to Simenson.

The first agricultural implement dealer was Mr. Manning in 1868. He sold on commission for a Charles City dealer. H. A. Graves was the next dealer and the next the Carlyon Bros.

The first furniture dealer was R. W. Catlin in 1872. The next was J. E. Perry.

The first harness shop was run by Peter West.

The first to engage in the livery business was John W. Phillips in 1869. The next was O. Sweet and Charles Callanan in 1876. In 1876 Charles T. Clark also built and operated a livery barn.



The first regular photographer was G. H. Roe, who came in 1874. S. Slocum also engaged in the business a little later.

The first jewelry store at Clear Lake was established in 1869, by Matt Simenson.

The United States Express Company came to Clear Lake in 1870. Maurice Roach was the first agent.

The first to buy and ship grain was L. O. Huntly, in the early seventies.

The first yard for the sale of imported lumber was in the fall of 1869, by Woodford, Wheeler & Johnson. The lumber was drawn by teams from Mason City.

*Banks.*—Clear Lake has two banks, the First National and the Cerro Gordo State Bank. Both banks are in safe and conservative hands and lend financial stability to the business interests of the town. Both banks have been established for many years.

The First National Bank has a capital of \$35,000 with total resources of \$300,000. Its officers in 1910, were: F. M. Rogers, president; C. R. Hamstreet, vice president; F. L. Rogers, cashier; R. R. Rogers, assistant cashier.

The Cerro Gordo County Bank has a capital of \$50,000, with total resources of \$475,000. The bank's officers in 1910 were: J. L. Etzel, president; H. E. Palmeter, cashier; George A. Etzel, assistant cashier.

All branches of trade are represented at Clear Lake and business of all kinds seems to be in a flourishing condition and municipal and private improvements are the order of the day.

Every city and town has a destiny before it. The destiny of Mason City is that of a commercial and industrial center. This is so manifest that even the wayfaring man can understand. Far different is to be the destiny of Clear Lake.

The same advantages possessed by Clear Lake as a summer resort over its rivals are as patent today as they were in the old days when the good old Methodist fathers chose it from among many competing points for their place for state camp meeting grounds. It has already been characterized as the "Saratoga of the West." In other words, it has already become famous as a watering place and summer resort.

Yet, so far, only the prologue to the story has been written; only the faint beginning of the beautified, the splendid and the opulent Clear Lake that is to be, has been made.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### MASON CITY.

LOCATION OF MASON CITY—THE BEAUTIES OF EARLY SCENERY—THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY—REASONS FOR ITS LOCATION—FIRST CALLED SHIBOLETH—THE FIRST HOUSE AND FIRST CITIZEN—FIRST PLATS—POLITICAL HISTORY—COUNTY SEAT WAR—INCORPORATED AS A TOWN—PERSONNEL OF GOVERNMENT FROM 1870 TO 1910—OLD MASON CITY—BUSINESS HISTORY DOWN TO 1870—VARIOUS MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE OLD TOWN—THE NEW CITY—COMMERCE—INDUSTRIAL—HOTELS—TRANSPORTATION—POSTOFFICE—THEATERS—SOCIETIES—BANKS—GRAND ARMY POST, ETC.—CO. A—CLUBS—WHY SPECIAL MENTION IS MADE OF WOMEN'S CLUBS—THE CITY LIBRARY—MASON CITY SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—PARKS—PUBLIC BUILDINGS—POLICE—FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The city of Mason City is situated at the confluence of Lime and Willow creeks, about midway between the eastern and western bounds of Iowa and something less than thirty miles from the Minnesota border. It is the largest city within a radius of one hundred miles and is the most important town in a wide belt of country extending from the Great Lakes to where the golden sands of our western coast receive the waves of the Great South Sea. The site of the original town, that is the town as it existed prior to later extensions, which have, in all directions carried its limits beyond its most ancient boundaries, was coincident in both form and area with a somewhat scantily wooded promontory, which was almost an island, being almost entirely surrounded by the waters of the Lime, the Willow and the Calamus, and forming an approximate quadrilateral. In all directions, however, the city has outgrown those ancient, natural lines of demarkation and its god Terminus has advanced with almost equal stride toward the four opposing points of the compass until the three streams whose

channels once formed its ultimate barriers now meander in peace and beauty among its streets and parks and habitations. The soil of the ancient site was everywhere shallow and for the most part infertile, while in many places it was stony and barren. These conditions were produced by the close proximity of the underlying rocky strata to the surface, which not only hindered a sufficient depth of soil, but in summer produced drouthy conditions unfavorable to the growth of valuable timber. There were places, however, by the banks of the streams and in some of the ravines and hollows, where the soil was deep and rich and moist and here trees grew large and lofty and like those of a forest.

The pioneer settlers who came to Cerro Gordo came partly because it was a land empty of men and therefore a land which offered no other resistance to settlement than that presented by natural obstacles. To the west lay the point of least resistance. But there were other lures. Man has ever been a lover of the beautiful in nature and in primeval Cerro Gordo there was a beauty, left fresh from the hand of God, which must have impressed even the most callous and stolid. The pioneers, leaving their homes to the eastward earlier in the spring, generally arrived in Cerro Gordo in June or later. The woods were in full leaf and filled with singing birds, and the prairies, like some wide expanding carpet of emerald, were literally covered with flowers and aflame with all the colors of the rainbow; a green landscape of hill and hollow and wide level places, of meandering streams and rippling lake and woodland and meadow, canopied with the blue of summer skies. To the hunter and fisher there was the lure of lake and stream and plain and forest, where the waters were stocked with fish and wood and plain swarmed with game, from the stately elk and the primeval bison to the innocent and timid quail and rabbit. To the trapper there were beaver, otter, mink and muskrat. To the husbandman there was the deep, rich soil, the prairie lands for grain and meadow and pasture and the woodland with its timber for fuel, building and fencing. To those who would build cities and to those who would live in towns, there was possibility and promise. It was a garden of Eden; it could and would be made a land of Canaan.

A comparative few came to this new land of beauty and promise to hunt and fish and trap, but the multitude came as farmers and tillers of the soil, bringing with them their cattle, horses, sheep and swine and domestic fowls, the seeds for their cereals and root and forage crops and their implements of husbandry and domestic

life. To neither of these classes belonged John B. Long, John L. McMillen and James Jenkinson. These men came with the deliberate intention of founding a town. Their anticipations and preparations were for urban life, urban activities, industry and enterprise. As we view these three personalities in retrospect we recognize in them the three essential types of urban life. In John B. Long we see the optimist, the ambitious man of affairs, of public spirit and public enterprise. In John L. McMillen we see typified the law and order element and the solid business interests. In James Jenkinson we have symbolized the industrious labor element; that noble substratum that constitutes the armies of war and peace and is the body and strength of any community.

It does not require the inspiration of divinity or human genius to prophecy after the event. The event has proved that Long and McMillen founded a town that has grown into a city, that has outstripped the cities and towns in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota within a minimum radius of 100 miles. This is easily to be discerned now, after the event. But did Long and McMillen and their veteran compeers see it before the event? Did they found their town on a faith in its future which they never lived to see justified? If so, on what grounds did they base that faith? Over on the Shell Rock, Elijah Wiltfong had faith in the future of the town he founded and so did Rev. Thomas Tenney and his capable son, Hon. C. W. Tenney, in their town of Plymouth, and Hewitt and Dickirson and the Sirrines and the Tuttles fully believed that the future commercial and political metropolis of the surrounding country was to grow up along the shores of Clear Lake. Yet today the town of Clear Lake has no importance other than that of a summer resort, and Plymouth and Shell Rock Falls continue to languish as they have languished for almost sixty years.

In the full light of after days, in the spacious times of fulfillment and realization on the part of Mason City, contrasted with the lifelong decay of Plymouth and Shell Rock Falls and the blighted hope and defeated promise of Clear Lake, it is extremely difficult, almost impossible, to retrace our steps almost sixty years into the twilight of that early morning of our history, and, with the dim light of that morning only, judge impartially whether Long and McMillen possessed greater wisdom and keener foresight or whether they simply made a luckier guess than did the founders of the once rival towns of Plymouth, Shell Rock Falls and Clear Lake.



Long and McMillen knew nothing of the great shale deposits from which the Mason City brick and drain tile are made and knew nothing of the cement deposits and so could not even dream of what is at present one of Mason City's greatest industries. It is at least extremely doubtful whether they considered the abundance of limestone and dolomite rock as possessing any future commercial or industrial importance, and it is not likely that with their limited knowledge, they knew of the extreme paucity of those materials in the surrounding region. There were no railroads or navigable streams, so that the matter of superior transportation facilities could not enter into their calculations. They could not



MASON CITY DRAIN TILE COMPANY.

have considered geographical location from a commercial standpoint, because in the interior of Iowa at that time, where there were neither human habitations, railroads or navigable streams, one point was, commercially speaking, as much a geographical center as another. It is true that Mason City possessed timber and water power, but so did its rivals. A future railroad from the south was as apt, so far as anybody could then see, to pass up the valley of the Shell Rock as that of the Lime and as apt to go by way of Clear Lake as either. There must, at that time, have been absolute uncertainty as to where a railroad coming from the east would cross the county and the chances of the rivals were equal.

Taking into consideration the only light possessed by the founders of Shibolet in the early fifties, we may reasonably conclude that the site was chosen, first, because of its water power; second, because of the presence of timber; third, because of the dryness and good natural drainage of the location; fourth, because of its approximately central location with reference to the political geography of the county which would present county seat possibilities; fifth, handy quarries of building stone for future local use; sixth, a purely sentimental reason which saw some undefinable advantage arising from a location at the junction of two of the principal streams of the county. Strange to say, not one of these reasons has ever been a distinctive factor in Mason City's growth and all are now absolutely negligible.

#### THE FOUNDING OF MASON CITY.

In June, the month of roses, 1853, John B. Long and John Biford came from Winnebago county, Illinois, and made extensive claims on Lime creek in the vicinity of what is now Mason City. Their claims comprised the best of the timber lands as well as some of the finest of the prairie in the vicinity. To the large body of timber extending northward from the junction of Lime and Willow creeks, Long gave the name of Masonic Grove in honor, it is said, of the order of Free Masons of which he claimed to be a member. For several years the settlement in this vicinity was known as the Masonic Grove settlement.

In the spring of 1853 the county was surveyed into townships by John T. Everett and a Mr. Anderson, surveyors employed by the federal government, and in the latter part of the same season the townships were subdivided into sections and quarter sections.

During the summer of 1853 John B. Long, George Brentner and Joseph Hewitt, taking time by the forelock, laid out a town on a part of the present site of Mason City, each holding a one third interest in the plat. The rights of the three proprietors were only inchoate or *in posse* in their nature, as the land on which the townsite was located was still in the possession of the federal government. Not long afterward Joseph Hewitt sold out his interest and retired, apparently having more faith in the future of a town on the shores of Clear Lake. The town platted by Long, Brentner and Hewitt was christened "Shibolet." There must

have been some special significance in the choice of a name so rare and uncouth, but precisely what this special significance was has escaped the notice of the historian.

In October of 1853, John L. McMillen and James Jenkinson arrived at the confluence of the Lime and the Willow and on the banks of Lime creek, within the present limits of Mason City, but about half a mile from the plat of Shibolet, built a log cabin, fourteen feet in length by twelve feet in width, and one scant story in height. This rude log cabin was the first habitation built for a white man by a white man within the limits of what is now Mason City, and to James Jenkinson belongs the honor of being Mason City's first citizen. In this rude cabin, primitive almost as the first abode of primeval man, its rough walls built of unhewn logs, its roof made of shakes split out by the woodman's ax, the crevices between the logs filled with grass and moss and wooden "chinking," plastered with clay, a rude fire place and ruder chimney, with no windows and a door of the crudest pattern, James Jenkinson passed the long arctic winter of 1853-4. The winter was one of unusual severity. To both James Jenkinson and Mason City it was a memorable winter. To the lonely denizen of the log cabin because of isolation from kith or kin in the midst of a white and frozen uninhabited wilderness and because of the cold, famine and hardship he endured; memorable to Mason City because it was the first winter of the first year of the city. Several years ago H. G. Parker stated that but a few scattered stones marked the spot where this cabin once stood. It is doubtful if even those few stones are remaining at the present day. A suitable monument should be erected to mark the spot.

When McMillen departed for Illinois he left with Jenkinson all the flour and pork he could spare. The supposition had been that Jenkinson could eke out his small stock of provisions with such wild game as he could shoot or trap. As the event proved, however, there was either a shortage of game or Jenkinson's skill as a hunter and trapper had been over estimated, for long before the coming of spring and McMillen, he was reduced to famine conditions and at one time was only saved from actual starvation by the timely aid, rendered by a friendly Indian, who gladly shared his venison in return for the comparatively comfortable shelter afforded by Jenkinson's cabin. But McMillen came at last and brought with him both clothing and provisions.

As has been already related the first plat of Mason City was

made while the government still had possession of the land, in 1853 or 1854, Parker gives the former date. The first recorded plat was filed for record in July, 1855, by John B. Long and George Brentner, as proprietors, the surveyor being I. W. Card. In 1856 George E. and E. B. D. Woodward filed the plat to what was known as Railroad addition. This survey was also made by Card. In 1857 Paul Felt filed what was known as Felt's plat. This plat took in a part of the original plat of Long and Brentner and was filed September 15. A. Garner made this survey. As no further additions were made until 1869, a period of twelve years we may consider the Felt plat as completing the official founding of Mason City.

The history of Mason City naturally falls into three periods, which may be classified as the first, middle and third. The first period begins with the foundation of the city in 1853, and ends in 1869, with the coming of the first railroad. The middle period begins with the coming of the railroad in 1869 and ends, with a somewhat less well defined line of demarkation, with the development of the brick and tile industry, which may be approximated at 1900. The third and latest period begins with the commencement of the present century. These divisions have reference to the economic history of the city.

The political or civic history of the city also falls into three periods, the first two of which are practically co-incident with the first two economic periods. The first of the politico-civic periods begins with the organization of Mason township, December 11, 1856, and ends in 1870, when Mason City was incorporated as a town. The second period begins in 1870 and ends in 1881, when the town was organized into a city of the second class. The third period begins in 1881 and still continues.

#### POLITICAL HISTORY.

Prior to the summer of 1855, the settlement at Masonic Grove was without local government. Early in the spring of that year Cerro Gordo county was attached to Floyd county for judicial and other purposes and treated as a township of that county. Accordingly John M. Hunt, judge of Floyd county, issued an order for an election to be held on the first Monday in April of the year 1855, for the purpose of electing township officers. This election was held in the store of John L. McMillen and local tradition has it



that George L. Bunce and John L. McMillen were elected justices of the peace. It should also be stated that a contrary tradition has it that there was never any election held. There are no written records extant. The probabilities are that the election was held and Cerro Gordo township, Floyd county, was duly organized. The organization, however, was of no practical moment, as on the 7th of August following another election was held in the store of John McMillen and this election was for the organization of Cerro Gordo into an independent county. The two leaders in the movement for county organization were John B. Long and John L. McMillen. We have spoken of John B. Long, John L. McMillen and James Jenkinson, the real founders of Mason City, as representing the three essential elements of citizenship. In this election John B. Long, typifying the politician and the publicist, was elected to the highest office in the gift of the people, that of county judge. John L. McMillen, representing the solid business element, was an influential factor, but asked for and received no office. James Jenkinson, symbolizing the industrial brawn of the community, cast his ballot as he deemed best and went back to his work. There were fifty-three votes cast.

#### THE COUNTY SEAT WAR.

As we look back and watch the development of affairs, we see that from the first John B. Long counted on making his town the county seat of the county. Shortly after the organization of the county Judge Murdock of the district court appointed three commissioners to locate the county seat. The Masonic Grove settlement and the Clear Lake settlement were the chief competitors and each had strong men at work in its behalf. The genius of John B. Long, seconded by the strong moral force of John L. McMillen, triumphed and the commission located the county seat in the embryo town at the forks of the Lime and the Willow. The county seat stake was driven where the central school building now stands. On this spot the court house should have been built.

Judge Murdock was a man of unquestioned honesty and ability and as such would never lend himself to aid in the schemes of mere townsite promoters. Masonic Grove was the point nearest the geographical center of the county and was the proper place for the county seat. The Clear Lake settlement, however, was sorely disappointed and possessed a number of able and enterpris-

ing men who proposed to play out the game to the last card. Accordingly when the sixth general assembly met in December, 1856, it found a strong lobby of Clear Lakers on hand working for a new commission and a "square deal." The lobby was successful and a new commission was created by the legislature for the purpose of locating the county seat of Cerro Gordo county. As a result of the labors of this commission Masonic Grove lost the county seat and Clear Lake, under the guise of the name of "Livonia," gained it. Then Masonic Grove made the next move by securing an appeal to the sovereign people of the county at an election to be held in April, 1858. The battle of the ballots came and Clear Lake lost decisively and forever. The vote stood Mason City, 155; Clear Lake or Livonia, 48. After this election the name Livonia disappears from the history of the county.

On the 17th day of December, 1856, Judge Church, who had succeeded John B. Long as county judge, redivided the county into civil townships, making four instead of only three. Mason was one of the new townships and comprised congressional townships 96 and 97, range 20, and the east half of townships 96 and 97, range 21. The Masonic Grove settlement was now simply a part of Mason township and its political history is merged in and is part of the political history of that township until 1870, a period of fourteen years.

In 1870 Mason City was incorporated as a town and began a separate political existence. It might be well to state here that the name of the town had been changed to Mason City in 1857, at which time the first postoffice was established. An attempt was made at the time to have the name of the new postoffice officially fixed as Masonville, but as there was another postoffice in the state by that name, Mason City was chosen instead. Under the act of incorporation, the town council was to consist of a mayor and five trustees. Below is given the names of the mayors and trustees of the town of Mason City from the time of its first incorporation in 1870 down to 1881, when the form of government was changed.

#### 1870.

D. B. Mason, mayor; trustees, E. R. Lloyd, Elisha Randall, George Vermilya, A. B. Tuttle, W. Wallen.

## 1870—1871.

A. B. Tuttle, mayor; trustees, A. J. Benton, Elisha Randall, J. H. Valentine, Henry Keerl, H. G. Parker.

## 1871—1872.

W. W. Knapp, mayor; trustees, E. R. Lloyd, George Henderson, H. G. Parker, E. J. Pratt, George Vermilya. George Vermilya resigned May 9, 1871, and J. V. Mumford was elected to fill his place.

## 1872—1873.

W. W. Knapp, mayor; trustees, E. R. Lloyd, E. D. Doud, E. J. Pratt, W. C. Sheppard, J. M. Dougan. W. C. Sheppard resigned April 8, 1872, and F. M. Goodykoontz was appointed to fill his place.

## 1873—1874.

B. F. Hartshorn, mayor; E. G. Frink, George L. Herrick, Benjamin Randall, J. B. Dakin, A. J. Miller.

## 1874—1875.

B. F. Hartshorn, mayor; trustees J. B. Dakin, E. J. Pratt, Benjamin Randall, G. S. Herrick, A. J. Miller.

## 1875—1876.

J. B. Dakin, mayor; trustees, E. R. Lloyd, George L. Herrick, J. H. Valentine, O. T. Denison, John Pratt.

## 1876—1877.

J. B. Dakin, mayor; trustees, J. H. Valentine, L. F. Cadwell, Henry Keerl, L. S. Hazen, O. T. Denison.

## 1877—1878.

R. Wilber, mayor; trustees, E. Hoxie, J. M. Dougan, W. B. Stilson, John Lee, James V. Parker. James V. Parker removed from the city and July 2, 1877, J. M. Hudson was elected to fill the vacancy.

## 1878—1879.

John D. Glass, mayor; trustees, E. R. Lloyd, Henry Keerl, George L. Herrick, B. P. Kirk, D. M. Tiffany.

## 1879—1880.

W. V. Lucas, mayor; trustees, Henry Keerl, James Rule, W. W. Knapp, Edward Griffin, George L. Herrick, Edward Warbasse.

## 1880—1881.

John Cliggitt, mayor; trustees, O. T. Denison, John Lee, G. L. Herrick, Henry Keerl, James Rule, E. Griffin.

In 1881 the town was organized as a city of the second class.

## 1881—1882.

John Cliggitt, mayor; Alonzo Church, treasurer; John C. Sherwin, city solicitor; J. J. Clark, city clerk; D. H. Baker, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, John Lee, Henry Keerl. Second ward, Andrew Lien, B. P. Kirk. Third ward, L. A. Page, John F. Burns.

## 1882—1883.

John Cliggitt, mayor; A. S. Church, city treasurer; J. C. Sherwin, city solicitor; J. J. Clark, city clerk; D. H. Baker, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, John Lee, W. W. Knapp. Second ward, Andrew Lien, H. I. Smith. Third ward, L. A. Page, J. F. Burns.

## 1883—1884.

John Cliggitt, mayor; A. S. Church, city treasurer; J. C. Sherwin, city solicitor; J. J. Clark, city clerk; A. C. Owen, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, John Lee, W. W. Knapp. Second ward, H. I. Smith, A. Lein. Third ward, L. A. Page, L. C. Hurlbut.



## 1884—1885.

John C. Sherwin, mayor; A. S. Church, city treasurer; J. J. Clark, city solicitor; A. R. Sale, city clerk; A. C. Owen, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, W. W. Cameron, John Lee. Second ward, H. I. Smith, A. Lein. Third ward, H. E. Francesco, Con Bentz.

## 1885—1886.

O. T. Denison, mayor; A. S. Church, city treasurer; J. J. Clark, city solicitor; A. R. Sale, city clerk; W. C. Clark, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, E. Pennington, W. W. Cameron. Second ward, H. I. Smith, A. Lein. Third ward, H. E. Francesco, A. E. Manchester.

## 1886—1887.

O. T. Denison, mayor; A. S. Church, city treasurer; J. J. Clark, city solicitor; A. R. Sale, city clerk; W. C. Clark, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, W. W. Cameron, E. Pennington. Second ward, J. J. O'Rourke, A. Lien. Third ward, A. E. Manchester, O. D. Buchecker.

## 1887—1888.

C. H. Hughes, mayor; T. H. Alexander, city treasurer, A. H. Cummings, city solicitor; A. R. Sale, city clerk; G. C. Wright, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, A. T. Parker, W. W. Cameron. Second ward, D. J. Stewart, J. J. O'Rourke. Third ward, O. D. Buchecker, G. A. Stearns.

## 1888—1889.

C. H. Hughes, mayor; T. H. Alexander, city treasurer; A. H. Cummings, city solicitor; A. R. Sale, city clerk; G. C. Wright, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, F. M. Rogers, A. T. Parker. Second ward, J. H. Stevens, I. R. Kirk. Third ward, B. A. Wilson, G. A. Stearns.

## 1889—1890.

J. H. Stevens, mayor; T. H. Alexander, city treasurer; A. H. Cummings, city solicitor; A. R. Sale, city clerk; G. C. Wright, city

marshal. Councilmen—First ward, C. H. Tondro, J. M. Calkins. Second ward, C. H. Randall, A. A. Crossley. Third ward, B. Wilson, W. E. Tucker.

1890—1891.

J. H. Stevens, mayor; T. H. Alexander, city treasurer; A. H. Cummings, city solicitor; A. H. Gale, city clerk; J. G. Bailey, city marshal. Councilmen—First ward, C. H. Tondro, J. M. Calkins, Second ward, C. H. Randall, A. A. Crossley. Third ward, W. Tucker, James Conners.

1891—1892.

Duncan Rule, mayor; O. A. Brownell, city treasurer; A. H. Cummings, solicitor; A. H. Gale, city clerk; J. G. Bailey, city marshal. Councilmen—First Ward, E. M. Randall, C. H. Tondro. Second ward, A. A. Crossley, C. H. Randall. Third ward, Jas. Conners, Ed Barr.

1892—1893.

Duncan Rule, mayor; T. H. Alexander, treasurer; A. H. Cummings, solicitor; A. H. Gale, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, C. H. Tondro, E. M. Randall. Second ward, C. H. Randall, A. A. Crossley. Third ward, John Stanton, Ed Barr.

1893—1894.

A. H. Cummings, mayor; O. A. Brownell, treasurer; D. W. Telford, solicitor; A. H. Gale, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, E. M. Randall, J. E. Knudson. Second ward, George Brett, A. A. Crossley. Third ward, John Stanton, Ed Barr.

1894—1895.

A. H. Cummings, mayor; O. A. Brownell, treasurer; D. W. Telford, solicitor; S. C. Sale, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, J. E. Knudson, J. M. Calkins. Second ward, George W. Brett, J. H. Stevens. Third ward, John Stanton, Ed Barr.

## 1895—1896.

A. H. Cummings, mayor; O. A. Brownell, treasurer; D. W. Telford, solicitor; S. C. Sale, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, J. E. Knudson, J. M. Oalkins. Second ward, George W. Brett, J. H. Stevens. Third Ward, John Stanton, C. A. Beebe.

## 1896—1897.

A. H. Cummings, mayor; O. A. Brownell, treasurer; D. W. Telford, solicitor; S. C. Sale, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, G. W. Sanborn, George P. Smith. Second ward, G. W. Brett, H. M. Baker. Third ward, C. A. Beebe, John Stanton.

## 1897—1898.

George W. Brett, mayor; O. A. Brownell, treasurer; R. Wilber, solicitor; W. P. Fitch, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, G. P. Smith, D. J. Stewart. Second ward, H. A. Merrill, H. M. Baker. Third ward, C. O. Keeffe, John Stanton.

## 1898—1899.

G. W. Brett, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; R. Wilber, solicitor; W. P. Fitch, clerk; J. G. Bailey, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, D. J. Stewart, R. Valentine. Second ward, E. B. Higley, H. A. Merrill. Third ward, John J. Burns, C. O. Keeffe.

## 1899—1900.

G. W. Brett, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; T. G. McDermott, solicitor; W. P. Fitch, clerk; W. C. Clark, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, D. J. Stewart, R. Valentine. Second ward, H. A. Merrill, E. B. Higley. Third ward, J. J. Burns, C. O. Keeffe.

## 1900—1901.

G. W. Brett, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; T. G. McDermott, solicitor; W. P. Fitch, clerk; W. C. Clark, marshal. Councilmen—First ward, D. J. Stewart, R. Valentine. Second ward, H. A. Merrill, E. B. Higley. Third ward, J. J. Burns, C. O. Keeffe.

## 1901—1902.

F. M. Norris, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; F. A. Kirschman, solicitor; W. P. Fitch, clerk; A. S. Clark, assessor. Councilmen—First ward, Jacob Decker, R. Valentine. Second ward, F. W. Wraite, E. B. Higley. Third ward, James Sullivan, J. J. Burns.

## 1902—1903.

F. M. Norris, mayor; G. H. McNider, treasurer; F. A. Kirschman, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; A. S. Clark, assessor. Councilmen—First ward, R. Valentine, Jacob Decker. Second ward, E. B. Higley, F. W. Wraite. Third ward, J. J. Burns, James Sullivan. Fourth ward, John Colloton, W. H. Stewart.

## 1903—1904.

F. M. Norris, mayor; G. H. McNider, treasurer; F. A. Kirschman, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; A. S. Clark, assessor. Councilmen—First ward, R. Valentine, Jacob Decker. Second ward, E. B. Higley, F. W. Wraite. Third ward, J. J. Burns, James Sullivan. Fourth ward, John Colloton, W. H. Stewart.

## 1904—1905.

F. M. Norris, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; F. A. Kirschman, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; A. S. Clark, assessor. Councilmen—First ward Jacob Decker, C. A. Cadwell. Second ward, A. T. Lien, F. W. Wraite. Third ward, James Sullivan, J. J. Burns. Fourth ward, W. H. Stewart, John Colloton.

## 1905—1906.

A. W. Dawson, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; John Robinson, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; A. S. Clark, assessor. Councilmen—First ward, R. Valentine, C. A. Cadwell. Second ward, W. H. Nutting, A. T. Lien. Third ward, John O'Leary, J. J. Burns. Fourth ward, Wm. Van Lone, W. H. Stewart.

## 1906—1907.

A. W. Dawson, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; John Robin-



son, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; A. S. Clark, assessor. Councilmen—First ward, C. A. Cadwell, R. Valentine. Second ward, A. T. Lien, W. H. Nutting. Third Ward, J. J. Burns, John O'Leary. Fourth ward, Wm. Van Lone, H. H. Perkins. J. J. Burns resigned in May, 1907, and C. M. Swale was appointed to fill the vacancy.

#### 1907—1908.

James H. McConlogue, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; John Robinson, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; D. J. Farrell, assessor; Councilmen—First ward, W. L. McAuley, C. A. Cadwell. Second ward, W. H. Nutting, A. T. Lien. Third ward, John Stanton, C. M. Swale. Fourth ward, Daniel Davey, H. H. Perkins.

#### 1908—1909.

James H. McConlogue, mayor; C. H. McNider, treasurer; John Robinson, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; D. J. Farrell, assessor; Councilmen—First ward, W. L. McAuley, C. A. Cadwell. Second ward, W. H. Nutting, A. T. Lien. Third ward, John Stanton, C. M. Swale. Fourth ward, Daniel Davey, H. H. Perkins. In April, 1908, C. A. Cadwell resigned and Frank A. Miller was appointed to fill the vacancy. In November, 1908, John Robinson resigned as solicitor and R. M. Witwer was appointed to fill the vacancy.

#### 1909—1910.

F. A. Kirschman, mayor; C. H. Barber, treasurer; R. M. Witwer, solicitor; J. H. McEwen, clerk; D. J. Farrell, assessor; Councilmen—First ward, Frank A. Miller. Second ward, W. S. Wilcox. Third ward, C. M. Swale. Fourth ward, C. H. Burnham. At large, John Stanton, W. L. McAuley.

The city officers elected in 1909 serve until 1911. By a new arrangement at the election of 1909 one councilman was elected from each ward and two councilmen were elected at large.

The foregoing completes the list of city and town officers except that of superintendent of water department and plumbing and electric wiring inspector, to which position W. P. Fitch was appointed in 1902; and excepting the office of city engineer to which position F. P. Wilson was appointed in 1900.

Also in 1909 a board of three park commissioners was elected. This board consists of George E. Penson, elected for six years; E. B. Higley, elected for four years; and Wm. Smith, elected for two years.

#### OLD MASON CITY.

To people living in modern Mason City, that is, the Mason City of this present year of grace, 1910, it is impossible to hark back in retrospect and see again the Old Mason City of the fifties and the sixties. It is impossible for the denizens of the proud, self-conscious, populous, prosperous, growing Mason City of today, with its lofty buildings of brick and stone, its commercial emporiums, its many centering lines of railway, its miles of paved streets, watermains and sewers, its brilliantly lighted streets, its street cars and telephones, its palatial school buildings and magnificent public library, the giant smoking chimneys of its great industries, its beautiful central park, its wealthy banks, its modern church edifices, hotels and opera house, its daily press and all its activities, it is impossible for these denizens of our modern city to realize the contrast of all this with the Old Mason City of forty and fifty and sixty years since.

For the first few years the Old Mason City was merely a small collection of log huts, and when, in the later fifties, lumber began to come into common use as a building material, it was the heavy green product of the local hardwood forest, sawed by the local water power sawmills. The main thoroughfare which divided the cabins into two more or less equal parts and which was identical with South Main, north of the bridge, could scarcely be called a street, but merely a roadway, dusty in summer, muddy in spring and autumn and blocked with drifted snow in winter. The houses were not contiguous, but straggled along each side of the embryo street from State street to the bridge over Willow creek, although in the early days there was no bridge, but crossing the Willow was by a ford. Judged by modern standards, the houses were exceedingly small, almost miniature, simple in plan and crude in material and construction. We have already given the dimensions of the Jenkinson hut. The store building and dwelling erected by John McMillen was a little larger, had two rooms below stairs and a loft. In this he and his family lived, he kept his store and at a stress accommodated the occasional wayfarer. The wayfarers

slept in the loft and something may be gained in forming a judgment of the character of the roof and the height of this first store-dwelling-hotel, when it is related that in winter, travelers when dressing in the morning, were obliged to stand in a stooping posture, with their feet in the snow that had sifted in through the shake roof. Yet this small building answered the three fold purpose of store, dwelling and inn, until 1858, a period of four years. The stores of that day were kept in small, ill-lighted rooms, were general in character, limited in variety, meager in the quantity and coarse and common in quality of the merchandise kept for sale. There were a few groceries, such as "Muscavado" or brown sugar "sale", as distinguished from home made molasses, tea, coffee, tobacco, candy, saltfish, salt, and a few spices and sundries. The drygoods was principally of cotton and made up of calicos, denims, drillings, gingham, "factory" cloth or sheeting, "hickory," a few ribbons, a few rolls of various woolens, etc. Every store kept glassware and crockery and powder and lead, both in bar and in the form of shot, and every store kept at least a few boots and shoes; boots for the men and boys and shoes for the women and girls; and there was tinware and hardware. The population of those days was sparse, the people, poor, economical and self-denying. As a consequence the demand for goods was small and for only the necessities and at best a few of the comforts.

To one viewing the immense volume and variety of Mason City's business in the closing year of the first decade of the 20th century, it is interesting, if not instructive to take a glance backward at the beginning of that business in the middle of the preceding century.

The first general store was that of John McMillen in 1854. This was a small stock in a small log cabin.

The first to engage in an exclusive grocery business was the firm of Stackhouse & Belt in the following year, 1855. This store was also kept in a log house. The early day grocery has no counterpart in modern times. It was a sort of compromise between a grocery store and an eating house and in many cases liquors were also kept. It was also a sort of club room where men met and gossiped and played checkers, cards, etc., and where those who could not afford a meal at the "tavern,"—they were "taverns" in pioneer days—went for their lunch. Crackers, cookies, ginger bread, cheese, smoked herring, etc., were staple articles at the groceries.

In the early times, probably about 1856, Robert Clark, who came from Rockford, Illinois, built a store building of native lumber and put in a stock of general merchandise.

In 1858 John L. McMillen, the pioneer merchant, built a new and larger store building across the street from his first place, and at about the same time John B. Long also put up a frame store building, where the Hoxie building now stands, and put in a stock of general merchandise. Long, however, was not a merchant, and do the best he could, he failed inside of three years.

D. J. Purdy put in the first real grocery stock. Purdy lived to become one of the leading grocery men of Mason City, but his beginning was of the humblest. His first store was in a little frame shanty, but he possessed talent, industry, persistence and economy and he succeeded.

In 1859 J. H. Valentine and J. C. Cowles formed a partnership and engaged in general merchandising or really opened a small general store.

The first photograph gallery was opened in 1855 by James Stewart. At any rate Stewart had a camera and "took pictures," mostly "tintypes."

Two lawyers, Thomas Drummond and A. B. Miller opened a law and real estate office in 1855.

During 1856 James Church built a hotel or tavern, which was operated by James Stewart. F. Stackhouse opened a butcher shop as it was called in those days. It would now be designated as a meat market.

The first blacksmith shop was opened in 1855 by a Mr. Peabody and the same year Mark Dexter opened a wagon shop for repair work.

Solomon Zuver kept a tavern on the north bank of Willow creek in 1857. This was the Waukonsa.

The postoffice was established in 1857 with Jarvis Church as postmaster.

John F. Taylor began the sale of farm implements in 1860.

In 1862 W. H. Harding began dealing in furniture.

In 1863 A. B. Tuttle opened a general store. The stores were showing decided improvement by this time.

In 1864 D. J. Farrell began work as a stone mason, contractor in stone work as well as a dealer in building stone, etc. This year also saw the opening of the first millinery shop by Miss S. E. Hartshorn.



In 1865 saw the institution of a new hotel under the name of "The Commercial House," by Martin Baumgardner. This year saw the opening of the first lumber yard by George, afterward Judge Vermilya. This same year the first drug store was opened by Owen Davis.

S. B. Waughtal opened a blacksmith shop in 1866. He had to haul his coal from Waverly at a cost, laid down at the shop, of \$50 per ton.

In 1867 J. A. Farrell and J. H. Valentine opened a tinshop and Burr P. Kirk a livery stable.

In 1868 E. R. Lloyd opened a hardware store.

In the meantime Mason City's productive industries were having their small and humble beginnings and advancing at a slow pace of development. There can be little doubt that Long and McMillen took into consideration both the water power on the Lime and the Willow and the saw timber that grew not far away, when they made their selection of a site for their new town. These were both very important features, first, because pine lumber could only be had by transporting by wagon from the banks of the Mississippi river, more than a hundred miles distant; second, because water power is cheaper of installation and operation than steam power; third, the machinery for a steam plant must be transported over a long distance on wagons hauled by horses or oxen.

There was an excellent fall on the Willow, but the volume of water was uncertain and not large, but the Lime had a comparatively large volume of water and there was plenty of fall for a long distance. The first mill erected and put in operation in Mason City was in the summer of 1855 by Elisha Randall in company with Samuel Douglass of Vinton, Iowa. This mill at once commenced the sawing of lumber for the next year's building operations. But even prior to this a little lumber had been sawed by using a cross-cut saw, rip saw fashion; one of the sawyers standing above the log and the other below. But such a process was exceedingly slow, laborious and primitive.

There had been great and general rejoicing when Randall built his sawmill. Imagine the consternation when in the spring of 1856, the people saw the new mill, mill-dam and all swept away down the swirling, rushing torrent of the Lime. There is much less selfishness and a plainer community of interest in frontier settlements than in older settled communities, and the pioneers flocked as one man to the aid of Randall in the rebuilding of his lost mill.

The task was soon accomplished and the saw was not only converting the sawlogs of the settlers into lumber, but their corn into corn meal by means of a corn cracker which had been added. As the diet of the settlers was principally made up of corn meal, this corn cracker was highly appreciated.

In this connection Elisha Randall relates a touching incident of those olden days. A man living in Worth county, twenty-four miles distant, came in the winter of 1856-7, over the ice crusted drifts, for it was the winter of the "crust" on snow shoes, drawing a single sack of corn on a hand sled. He reached Mr. Randall's



KUPPENGERS MILL.

house on a winter Sunday morning and, after telling him the story of his long and toilsome journey and of his wife and children at home, without food and suffering for something to eat better than roasted corn, asked Randall if he would not start up his mill and grind his sack of corn that he might hasten back to his waiting family. Mr. Randall thinking of the man's family and of the old story that comes down to us from Palestine of the time when the disciples, being hungry, plucked and ate the ears of corn on the Sabbath day, were justified by our Lord, went to his mill, turned on the water and ground the poor man's sack of corn. For as

the God-man of Nazareth had said, "The Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

A few years later this first mill was enlarged and operated by Randall and son, and in 1875 it was rebuilt and new machinery put in for the then new process plan for making flour. In 1876 Randall sold the mill to John T. Elder, who owned and operated it for a number of years. The mill is still in operation and called the Kuppenger mill.

The next mill to be built was a flouring mill on Willow creek by H. G. Parker in 1870, with John Knight of Charles City as the master millwright. In 1877 H. G. Parker sold the mill to his cousin, A. T. Parker. This mill is no longer in operation.

Probably the first lime burned in the county was by Elijah Wiltfong over on the Shell Rock, who, wishing some lime for plastering a chimney, built a log heap and placing lime rock on it reduced the rock to lime. The first lime produced in Mason City was by Elisha Randall, by the same process as that used by Wiltfong. This was in 1855. Shortly afterward Randall built a regular lime kiln and burned lime for commercial purposes. Elisha Randall's logheap was the beginning of an important Mason City industry. In 1872 Randall invented and patented what was known as "Randall's Perpetual Lime Kiln." This invention proved quite a success and was adopted in many parts of the country, Mr. Randall receiving considerable profit from royalties.

For many years the lime industry was the most important of the city and the volume of the business, generally in connection with the building stone industry, was immense. Of late years, however, owing to the increasing use of Portland cement, the lime industry has decayed. There is still, however, a large lime producing plant in Mason City which produces large quantities of lime and employs a considerable number of men.

The Old Mason City ended with the coming of the railroads which arrived in 1869-70. This advent of the railroads started the only boom Mason City has ever had. Within a year the population nearly doubled and real estate values increased four fold. The country was flooded by incoming settlers and Mason City was fairly swamped with new comers and new business ventures and new business buildings, and the majority of these new business buildings were of brick or stone. The north part of Main street was built up with business buildings that were vacant or occasionally occupied at a loss for the next quarter of a century. Under

the over stimulation of the boom the town was built far ahead of the legitimate demands of business.

The Milwaukee system completed its main line through northern Iowa as far as Mason City in 1869. This line opened communication with the whole of the United States to the east. In 1870, the same system completed a line of its road from Mason City to Austin, Minnesota, and formed a junction at that point with the main line of the Milwaukee road from Milwaukee to St. Paul, Minneapolis and the whole north country including the more northern pineries. In 1870 the Iowa Central was also completed as far as Mason City. This road opened communication with the country to the south. In 1872 the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern was built through the eastern part of the county. This road, while not affecting Mason City as directly as the railways already mentioned, was of indirect benefit in that it immediately increased the population tributary to the retail trade of Mason City.

The coming of the railroads into the county not only revolutionized the life and history of Mason City but of the whole county. Mason City became a railroad center and the county became dotted with railway stations and these stations became markets, places where immigrants and their belongings, as well as merchandise, could be shipped into the county and where the products of the soil could be shipped out. Mason City being the county seat and having the greatest number, the largest and best stocked stores, all manner of business was increased by the building of the railroads through the county, the establishment of markets and the influx of immigration.

Before bidding Old Mason City a final farewell, we must retrace our steps and once more enter its time-hallowed precincts, in order that we may add a few items of interest to our imperfect account of the long ago.

The first marriage ceremony performed in Mason City was in 1855. The contracting parties were William Wilson and Miss Abigail Gardner. The ceremony was performed by John B. Long, at that time but lately elected to the office of county judge.

The first death was that of Mrs. James Stewart, wife of Mason City's first photographer, and who had but recently arrived in the new log house village. The body of Mrs. Stewart was buried near North Main street, not far from the north wall of the present First National Bank building.



The first birth was that of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Garner.

The first sermon preached in Mason City and probably in the county was in a building owned by John L. McMillen. The denomination to which the parson belonged is in dispute, some giving it as United Brethren and others as Congregational. This is, however immaterial. The sermon by whomsoever preached was based on the same old story of the Cross, the story that was begun in the manger at Bethlehem, reached its climax on Calvary and ended with the ascension of a risen Christ through the blue skies of Old Palestine to the throne of the Father in heaven. The name of the preacher was Styles; he had no settled charge at the time and he was probably a United Brethren. In the assembled audience were settlers from the Shell Rock, The Lime, Clear Lake and Owen's Grove. It was a memorable occasion and rendered all the more so by the shooting of a predatory wolf by John McMillen in his hen house, just before the meeting.

The first election held in Mason City, was the one for the organization of the county in 1855. At this election a cigar box served as the ballot box. As the law provided that all ballot boxes must be locked and as there was no lock to the cigar box, a huge padlock, nearly as large as the box itself, was made use of.

In 1856, or as some authorities would have it, in 1858, there occurred Mason City's first grand ball. The occasion was the dedication of the new store building built by John B. Long. Judged by modern standards, this dedicatory ball would not rate as a strictly recherche affair, but according to the frontier standards of the '50s it was considered a "dress affair." The dancers came from all parts of the county; the ladies with their crinolines of mull, delaines, ginghams and calicos, as large as hogsheads, their hoops in some cases of the store variety and in other improvised grape vines. The gentlemen dressed outwardly in long linen dusters, calf skin "fine" boots and pantaloons belonging to their all the year around all wool "Sunday suits."

John L. McMillen was the caterer and Mrs. McMillen chief cook and mistress of the dining hall. There were seventy-five couples and Mrs. McMillen prepared and served supper for over one hundred and fifty persons. The round dances were confined to schottishes, polkas and the waltz; there were also quadrilles and the country dances, money musk, opera reel and the other reels. All through the summer night, from sun to sun, there were sounds

of joyous revelry, laughter, fiddling, the cries of the "caller," the commands of the floor manager, the shuffling of the dancers' feet.

One more glimpse of old Mason City and we must ring down the final curtain. We quote from an article in one of the county papers of years ago, an article entitled "Removing a Landmark."

"This week Marshal Owen and a force of men was engaged in removing one of Mason City's landmarks. In the year 1855 John L. McMillen built a log house, 16x18 feet, on what is now Commercial street. It stands next to the express office today. In it, before completed, was preached the first sermon preached in Cerro Gordo county by a traveling Congregational minister. After the house was completed, McMillen put in a stock of goods, which were the first brought to the county. A short time afterwards McMillen sold out to Robert Clark and J. B. Long, who continued to sell goods some time. The building was then rented to Horace Green who converted it into a hotel. While Clark & Long owned it they built several additions. The house was afterwards known as the Waukonsa. Green was succeeded by A. M. Thompson as landlord, and he by Baumgardner, who gave place to W. R. Quincy. The part torn down by Marshal Owen and men was the north wing, used as a parlor by the old Waukonsa when at its best. In this old time parlor the celebrities of northern Iowa, who came here for business or pleasure, were accustomed to elevate their feet, drink toddy and smoke dark clay pipes. If the old logs in that land mark could speak and reason, they would unfold a tale that would be rich in frontier incidents. Among the noted guests who ate hash at the Waukonsa and one so well remembered by old settlers here are: Judge Porter, and ex-Governor Eastman of Eldora, W. N. Davidson and D. W. Dows of Hampton, Judge McFarlan, of Boonesboro; Judge Fairfield and J. G. Patterson of Charles City, Timber Wood, of Waverly, and W. P. Hepburn of Clarinda, with scores of others, who came here to attend court. Those days of rollicking good times all come crowding upon the mind, as the settlers gazed upon the building as it was being torn down under the blows of the advancing ax-man. The men who were prominent about town in early days are scattered—Long in Arkansas, Judge Robert Clark gone to join the throng of the dead; McMillen, Thompson, Owen, Quincey and others still remain here, but time has left the traces of his hand on their brows, and the streak of gray that skirt their locks tells the story of the

conflicts they have met in pioneer life. The destruction of the old log cabin, the Waukonsa, calls up these reminiscences of the past and we pause to look back over the history we have helped to make, and it seems more like a dream than a fact of our life.

#### THE NEW MASON CITY.

Up to the beginning of the 20th century Mason City was essentially a commercial town, that is commercial interest predominated over all other interests. This is particularly true of the New Mason City, which dates from the coming of the railroads in 1870.

#### COMMERCIAL.

The first clothing store of the New Mason City was established in 1870 by Rodolphus Babcock. There are here in 1910 four of the largest clothing stores in northern Iowa. The retail trade in other lines has constantly increased in both quality, quantity, and variety, until at this time all branches of retail commerce are represented. Mason City more especially excels in dry goods, clothing, furniture and jewelry, although the other branches rate high as compared with other cities of like population. Considering its location, Mason City has not made the advance in commercial wholesaling that might be expected, yet its wholesale trade each year runs into many hundreds of thousands of dollars and is rapidly increasing.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

Up to about 1880, the productive industries of Mason City were confined almost exclusively to milling, the production of lime and building stone. There was a brick yard in the north part of town and all of the brick used in town were burned here. This yard was operated by a Mr. Nelson. The clay from which these brick were made was a surface formation, being what is known as boulder clay. Along some time in the '80s Mr. Nelson established a new plant in the south part of the city for the manufacture of brick and drain tile. Later this plant became the property of Nelson and Barr and then of Barr and Denison. This

was in the '90s. The entrance of Owen T. Denison into the manufacture of clay products marks a new era in that branch of industry. It required ten years for Denison to demonstrate the profits and importance of the clay industry to the city and to the operators. By 1900, or the beginning of the present century, however, this fact had been thoroughly accomplished and the industry from that time advanced by leaps and bounds, until at the end of the first decade of the present century there are nine giant plants devoted to the manufacture of clay products, chiefly brick of different kinds and drain tile, in full blast night and day, mak-



NORTHWESTERN STATES PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY.

ing Mason City the largest and most important center of this industry in the United States or in the world. The output is about three train loads of clay products per day for every day in the year, as, from the necessity of the case, there can be no Sabbaths. The clay from which these brick and tile are made is really a Devonian shale and is inexhaustible in amount.

Another of the leading industries of Mason City is the Portland cement industry. Mason City has two of the largest and best equipped plants for the manufacture of Portland cement in the world, each covering several acres of land and employing many hundreds of men. The two plants have an annual capacity of



three million five hundred thousand barrels of Portland cement and the constantly increasing demand for cement in the manufacture of concrete, which is so largely taking the place of wood, iron, brick and stone, obliges the plants to run at their full capacity. The packing industry is one of constantly increasing size and importance. This industry commenced several years ago in a small unpretentious plant but has, under the capable management of Jacob Decker and Sons, developed into one of the most important meat packing industries in the state and is still growing and giving evidence of still more rapid development in the future.

The lime industry is still a very important one in Mason City, the Lien Brothers' establishment for the production of lime being one of the largest if not the largest in the state. We have already given an account of the genesis and early development of this industry. Although there is at the end of the first decade of the 20th century but one plant where there used to be several, the amount of lime actually produced is much greater probably three times as great as it used to be in the earlier times.

The foregoing are only a few of the larger and more important of the productive industries of modern Mason City. The products of these industries are shipped all over that portion of the United States lying between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains. Large quantities of Mason City made brick are shipped to Chicago and Mason City drain tile have been shipped as far west as the Pacific coast, into British America and as far south as Arkansas. The products of the Martin Manufacturing Co., which produces all kinds of tinware, granite ware, etc., are shipped all over the western part of the United States, as far west as the Pacific ocean and also find a large and growing market in the northwestern provinces of Canada. Some idea of the size and importance of Mason City's productive industries may be gained by the consideration that in the year 1909 the city originated 25,000 cars of freight and that the estimate for 1911 is well above 30,000 cars. By that time the new automobile factory will be in full operation. This is a million dollar plant.

There are other cities in Iowa possessing a larger number of factories, but the total amount of production in bulk and value of the Mason City industries exceeds that of any other city in the state. This is owing to the enormous output of the great brick and tile works and the cement plants. This supremacy bids fair to not only continue but to increase, as there is no other point

where clay products and Portland cement can be produced so cheap, owing to the nearness of the raw material to the surface, and where these materials exist in such enormous quantities.

#### HOTELS.

For many years the leading hotel of the new Mason City was the one built by Dr. Allen in 1871. This was considered at the time of its construction one of the finest and also one of the largest hotels in northern Iowa. The building was of brick, three stories, and was, more especially under the management of H. A. Dyer, modern in its arrangement, furnishings, equipment and management. H. A. Dyer became proprietor about the year 1877. Later the hotel changed hands several times, but was always the leading hotel until the building of the Hotel Anderson in 1895. For a number of years of its latest history as a hotel it was known as the "Park" Hotel. Some time after 1895 it was converted into a business block and office building. With the building of the Anderson, that hotel assumed a leading position which it has since maintained, although the Wilson, built not long after, has maintained a place as close second and has at times disputed the supremacy of the Anderson, which, however, is at this writing known as the Hotel Charles. The Hotel Charles is the Anderson, more than doubled in size and is probably the largest and one of the best appointed hotels in northern Iowa. The latest acquisition to the number of Mason City hotels is "The Park Inn." This is an innovation among Mason City public houses, being modeled after the high grade old-fashioned English inns of "ye olden time." It is unique among the hotels of the middle west. Like the Charles and the Wilson it is strictly first-class in all its appointments. Mason City has, at this writing, many other hotels of lesser note than the ones mentioned and may be considered as being possessed of ample hotel accommodation for any probable contingency.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

Mason City has, in the process of time, become a considerable railroad center and there is no point of the compass with which it is not in direct railway communication. The Milwaukee system enters and leaves the city in three different directions, east, west and northeast; the Northwestern system enters and leaves in two

different directions, southeast and northwest; the Iowa Central in two, north and south; the Great Western enters and leaves from the southwest; the St. Paul & Des Moines enters and leaves from the south. In addition to these steam roads, there is an electric interurban line connecting Mason City and Clear Lake. The Rock Island system contemplates the immediate construction of a line of steam railway into the city from the southeast, and the Mason City Electric Car Company is preparing to build several radiating electric interurban lines in different directions. Mason City's elaborate system of transportation greatly facilitates the distribution of its manufactured products and must tend to foster the increasing wholesale trade.

#### THEATERS AND PLAY HOUSES.

Parker's Opera House was the first serious attempt made in Mason City to meet the growing demand for a show house commensurate with the growing needs of the new city. This was built by H. G. and A. T. Parker in 1883, and was at the time considered an important feature. It was, however, inadequate and antiquated and has long since been put to the use of a public hall. Twenty years after the building of Parker's Opera House, Charles Wilson, the builder of the Hotel Wilson and the rebuilder of the Hotel Charles, built a strictly modern opera house and named it after himself. This is one of the finest opera houses in this part of the country. Besides the Wilson there are three other play houses in the city. These are all vaudeville places, but of good quality. They are the Bijou, the Star and the Airdome.

#### THE POSTOFFICE.

The Mason City postoffice was first established in 1857 and it was because there was at the time another postoffice by the name of of Masonville that saved the settlement at the forks of the Lime and the Willow from being known to future generations by the plebian name of Masonville, instead of by the patrician title of Mason City. Prior to 1857 the mail was carried either by volunteer private parties or by carriers paid by private subscription. Judge Jarvis J. Church was the first postmaster and he was soon succeeded by A. Garner. In 1869 Dr. Silas Card was appointed and was the first to receive a fixed salary. It was made a

presidential office in 1872. The present postoffice building was erected by the federal government in 1908-9 at a total cost of approximately \$80,000. It is brick with stone trimmings and in plan and furnishings is all that could be desired. In 1905 the office employed six clerks and five city carriers. In 1910 the clerical force has increased to twelve clerks and nine carriers. In 1905 the receipts of the office were \$34,977. 38. In 1910, the receipts of the office are \$60,000 in round numbers. The present postmaster is N. C. Kotchell, O. C. Wilcox, assistant postmaster; money order clerk, H. J. Stineberg; mailing clerks, G. C. Yelland, C. L. Loomer; stamp and registry clerks, B. C. Quackenbush, H. B. Madsen, J. E. Sheka; distributing clerks, C. C. Whitney, G. C. Van Wie, G. H. McLourey, H. S. Seammon; general delivery clerks, R. E. Wilcox, S. A. Koch; letter carriers, C. E. McEwen, H. B. Letts, J. H. Hardy, H. E. Arquette, H. J. Knapp, F. A. Wood, B. A. Wilson, J. W. Nowning, Walter Wilson; substitute carrier, J. J. Marti.

#### SOCIETIES.

The list of the various societies of Mason City is a long one, nearly all miscellaneous and secret societies and orders being represented. The following is as near a complete list as it is possible to secure:

Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Joseph's Court No. 1051. Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month. Officers: P. C. R., D. P. Ryan; C. R., Cornelius Casey; R. S., Daniel Durkin; Treas., John Colloton.

Cerro Gordo County Medical Society. Meets every Wednesday. Pres., F. E. McGlone; vice pres., A. B. Phillips, Clear Lake; sec., and treas., C. E. Dakin.

Iowa Division Travelers' Protective Association of America. Pres., H. C. Stearns; sec., A. F. Shotts.

Iowa Hardware Mutual Insurance Association. Pres., L. C. Abbott, Marshalltown, Iowa; vice pres., E. C. Barbour, Ft. Madison, Iowa; sec. and treas., A. R. Sale.

Knights of Columbus Building Company. Pres., Cornelius O'Keefe; vice pres., E. G. Dunn; sec., Edward O'Keefe; treas., M. C. Corbett.

Mason City Cemetery Association. Pres., C. H. McNider; sec., R. S. Stanbery.



Musical Protective Union, Mason City Local No. 230, A. F. of M. Sec., A. G. Brennick.

Travelers' Protective Association, Post A, Iowa Division. Pres., G. B. Streeter; vice pres., J. D. Nichols.

United Commercial Travelers. S. C., John Snyder; sec., M. H. Young.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES.

*Ancient Order of United Workmen*.—Loyal Workman, Mason City Lodge No. 304. Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. M. W., E. D. Roberts; rec., D. W. Story; fin., C. R. Patton.

*Benevolent Protective Order of Elks*.—Mason City Lodge No. 375. E. R., Tracey Stevens; E. L. K., Fred Duffield; E. L. K., Orlo Gould; E. L. K., Vern Rule; sec., Fred Blake. Meets second and fourth Mondays of each month.

*Brotherhood of American Yeomen*.—Morean Homestead No. 162. Meets every second and fourth Wednesdays. Foreman, Ora Densmore; M. of C., A. L. Wheeler; cor., Sarah Wheeler; M. of A., Wm. Irwin; chaplain, Mrs. Mary Turnure.

*Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers*.—Queen of Midland Subdivision 229. Meets second Sunday and fourth Tuesday of each month. C. E., William Tyson; sec., Wesley Paganhart.

*Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen*.—Meets first and third Sundays of each month. Pres., J. C. Buchanan; sec., Samuel Randall.

*Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen*.—G. W. Sanborn Lodge No. 9. Meets first and third Sundays of each month. Master, T. L. Nolan; sec., C. H. Wilson.

*Court of Honor*.—Mason City District Court No. 1027. Meets first and third Mondays of each month. C. F., M. I. McKeen; V. C., Mrs. H. Ramsey; P. C., Mrs. Myrtle Major; sec., R. A. Washburn.

*Fraternal Order of Eagles*—Mason City Aerie No. 1655. Meets first and third Wednesdays of each month in their hall. Pres., J. J. Mulgrew; V. P., Ray Monplasure; sec., W. G. Shanahan; treas., Edward Thompson.

*Independent Order of Odd Fellows*—Anchor Encampment No. 102. Meets second and fourth Thursdays of each month in I. O. O. F. hall. C. P., A. E. McAuley; H. P., Fred Kidder; scribe, O. L. Allen; treas., J. M. Dougan.

Mason City Lodge No. 224. Meets every Tuesday evening in I. O. O. F. hall. N. G., F. W. Kidder; V. G., W. E. McCavley; sec., W. G. Schanke.

Canton Phoenix No. 25, Patriarchs Militant. Meets second and fourth Fridays of each month. Capt., M. V. Secor; lieut., R. M. Washburn; ensign, C. A. Parker; acct., S. S. Dunn; clerk, Wm. Irwin.

Queen Rebekah Lodge No. 102. Meets first and third Fridays of each month in I. O. O. F. Temple. N. G., Leah Washburn; V. G., Nina Wheeler; rec. sec., Margaret Koch; fin. sec., Florence Londergan; treas., Wm. Letts.

*Iowa Legion of Honor*—Mason City Lodge No. 198. Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month. Pres., A. G. Bell; sec., J. S. Mills; treas., Carl Parker.

*Knights of Columbus*—Mason City Council No. 1006. Meets second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Elks hall. C. K., Cornelius O'Keefe; D. G. K., Daniel Durkin; C., Michael Coughlin; fin. sec., T. N. Igou; rec. sec., V. N. Clark; treas., J. W. Clark; adv., Thomas Dwyer; chaplain, Rev. E. J. Dougherty; trustees, Michael Corbett, Luke Flynn, George Igou.

*Knights of Pythias*—Cerro Gordo Lodge No. 70. Meets first and third Wednesdays of each month in I. O. O. F. hall. C. C., L. A. Hill; V. C., M. I. McKeen; M. at A., Ralph Stanbery; K. of R. and S. and M. F., L. M. Van Auker; M. of E., A. J. Killmer; I. G., Harry Odell; O. G., Nels Hanson.

*Knights of the Maccabees*—Cerro Gordo Tent No. 53. Meets first and third Mondays of each month in I. O. O. F. hall. P. C., C. A. Parker; C., J. J. Merrill; R. K. and F. K., W. G. C. Bagley.

*Masonic*—Antioch Commandery No. 43, Knights Templar. Meets third Tuesday of each month in Masonic Temple. G., Duncan Rule; rec., C. P. Shipley.

Benevolence Lodge No. 145, A. F. and A. M. Meets first Tuesday of each month at Masonic Temple. W. M., Earl Smith; S. W., E. R. Dunlap; sec., C. P. Shipley.

Benevolence Chapter No. 146, R. A. M. Meets second Tuesday of each month at Masonic hall. H. P., Wm. Nettleton; sec., C. P. Shipley.

United Chapter No. 58, O. E. S. Meets first Tuesday of each month in Masonic Temple. W. M., Mrs. Fannie Bailey; W. P., L. M. Van Auken; A. M., Lulu Tyson; sec., Mrs. A. L. Wheeler; treas., Mrs. Belle Dexter.

*Modern Brotherhood of America*—Supreme Lodge M. B. A. S. P., T. B. Hanley, Des Moines, Iowa; S. P. V., George E. Beatty, Tipton, Iowa; S. S., E. L. Balz, Mason City, Iowa; S. T., A. H. Gale, Mason City, Iowa; S. P., Robert J. Lynch, M. D. Des Moines, Iowa; George Bandry, M. D., Atchinson, Kansas; S. C., Mrs. Lydia J. Keith, Dallas, Texas; S. Conductor, Mrs. Cora M. Brown, Grand Forks, North Dakota; S. W., Antone Stoelzel, Denver, Col.; S. Sentry, Dole Hall, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Modern Brotherhood of America. Midland Lodge No. 226. Meets every Wednesday night in M. B. of A. hall. Pres., S. A. Koch; sec., H. B. Madsen; treas., J. S. Dunn.

*Modern Woodmen of America*—Wilcox Camp No. 709. Meets every Monday evening in M. W. A. hall. C. J., C. Buchanan; adv., Byron Cardy; banker, I. W. Keerl; clerk, E. O. Lehmann.

*Pythian Sisters*—Venus Temple No. 63. Meets second and fourth Mondays of each month at I. O. O. F. hall. M. E. C., Mrs. Mayme Weatherwax; E. S., Mrs. Cora Harding; E. J., Mrs. Hattie Kehm; M., Mrs. Josephine Hanson; M. of R., Mrs. Laville Miller; M. of F., Mrs. L. C. Phillips; G. of I. T., Mrs. Myrtle Huffman; G. of O. T., Mrs. Dot Gibson; P. C., Mrs. Mary A. Dayton.

*The Tribe of Ben Hur*—Tirzah Court No. 3. Meets every Friday in Gale Hall. C., O. E. Warfield; judge, T. T. Shannon; P. C., Anna J. Cassidy; Tchr., Mary Rice; scribe, Mrs. Hattie R. Brown; K. of T., C. A. Parker.

#### MASON CITY COMMERCIAL CLUB.

In these modern times no city of any hope, possibility or ambition is without its commercial club and Mason City is no exception to the quite general rule. The commercial club of Mason City was organized a number of years ago and has been of considerable advantage to the commercial and industrial interests of the city, and gives present promise of being a more potent factor in this direction in the future than in the past. It is composed of the best business talent of the city, merchants, lawyers, real estate men, manufacturers, etc. As at present organized, it has the following officers: pres., F. G. Hanlon; vice pres., C. H. Barber; sec., R. S. Stanbery; treas., S. A. Schneider.

#### BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

One of the plans adopted in Mason City for aiding poor people to secure the necessary money for the building of a home, is the Mason City Building and Loan Association, which was incorporated as long ago as 1880. Its present officers are: pres., H. H. Shepard; vice pres., E. L. Balz; treas., G. W. Hill; sec., J. F. Shaible.

#### BANKS.

For a city of its size Mason City is remarkably strong in the line of banks. These banks are not only strong in capital and resources, but in management which while conservatively safe, is, at the same time, courageously aggressive.

The first bank organized in Mason City was the "City Bank," or as it is now designated, the City National Bank. This bank was established in 1873 by Thomas G. Emsley. Mrs. Emsley acting in the capacity of cashier. Later O. T. Denison, and still later General James Rule became interested. At first it was a private bank with a small capital. It is now a national bank and its capital has been increased from time to time, until it is at



present \$100,000. As these words are being written, the finishing touches are being put on its new home, one of the finest bank buildings in the state. Its present officers are: pres., J. S. Wheeler; vice pres., A. H. Gale; cashier, J. F. Shaible; assistant cashiers, G. W. Hill and C. Brooke. Resources, \$1,053,013.11.

*Commercial Savings Bank*—In point of time, the second bank to be established in Mason City was the Commercial Savings Bank. It was founded in 1880 and was called the Commercial Exchange Bank, with H. P. Kirk as president and I. R. Kirk as cashier. The Commercial Exchange was also a private bank with but small capital. It has since been organized as a savings bank under the laws of Iowa and its capital has been increased to \$60,000, with resources amounting to \$495,424.14. Its present officers are: pres., James E. Blythe; vice pres., J. W. Adams; cashier, E. C. Halsey; assistant cashier, C. H. Barber. It is located in the Commercial Block, one of the finest buildings in the city.

*First National Bank*—Mason City's third bank was the First National Bank, established in 1881 with a paid up capital of \$50,000. Its first officers were: pres., H. I. Smith; vice pres., W. D. Balch; cashier, J. V. W. Montague; assistant cashier, C. H. McNider. The capital of the First National Bank has been increased since its first organization until it is at present \$150,000 and its resources have grown until they now, in 1910, amount to \$2,799,133.89. It is at present constructing a new bank block which will, when completed, be six stories high and fire proof. It will, when in its new quarters, be one of the finest in appointment as well as one of the largest in capital and resources in northern Iowa. Its present officers are: pres., C. H. McNider; cashier, W. G. C. Bagley; assistant cashiers, C. A. Parker and R. P. Smith; directors, C. H. McNider, L. W. Denison, W. G. C. Bagley, C. A. Parker, F. E. Kreler.

*Iowa State Bank*—The fourth oldest bank in Mason City is the Iowa State Bank, which was organized about the beginning of the present century, with N. C. Kotchell as president and I. W. Kurl as cashier and E. W. Clark as assistant cashier. The paid-up capital was \$50,000. Although one of the latest to be established, the Iowa State Bank has made rapid advancement and is today one of the leading financial institutions of the city. Its resources

amount to a total of \$359,508.58. Its officers and directors are: pres., N. C. Kotchell; cashier, I. W. Kurl; assistant cashier, L. O. Stone; directors: W. E. Brice, W. E. Long, Earl Smith, W. H. Smith, M. J. Fitzpatrick.

*The People's State Bank*—The People's State Bank commenced business with a paid up capital of \$50,000 in August, 1909. Although late in the field it has grown rapidly in the volume of its business and in resources. Its existence began only a little more than a year prior to the present writing yet its present resources amount to \$203,544.13. Its officers are: pres., W. R. Fleming; vice pres., John D. Glass; cashier, H. T. Fuller.

*Grand Army of the Republic*—The Grand Army post was first established in 1881, as Farnsworth Post No. 42, with the following roster of charter members: E. D. Doud, com., George C. Poisal, S. V. C.; D. H. Baker, J. V. C.; A. Marsh, adjt.; J. S. Clark, S. C. Ransom, Q. M.; J. A. Cotton, O. G.; C. E. Beaker, S. M.; Wm. Aerheart, second M. S.; C. M. Adams, Burdette Payson, John Beazor, F. B. Florence, Edward Roberts, A. C. Bemis, Tim O'Brien, R. L. Lillibridge, G. O. Brown, James Jenkinson. Since then names have been added and stricken from this first roster, until at the present time but four names of the original roster remain, those of S. C. Ransom, E. R. Roberts, F. B. Florence and C. M. Adams. All of the others have moved away or passed over the valley and the shadow. Shortly after the organization of the post, the name was changed to its present name, that of C. H. Huntley Post No. 42. The post meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the court house. The present officers are: com., R. Bird; S. V., Sylvester Meacham; J. V., George Tyler; adjt., John H. Stevens; chaplain, S. G. Nelson; A. D., Wm. Weigle; O. G., N. Grant; O. M. S., Thomas Hanlon; P. I., H. A. Dyer; Q. M., C. J. Stevens; S. M., A. P. Munson.

*C. H. Huntley, W. R. C., No. 72. (Annex G. A. R.)*—Meets second and fourth Fridays of each month in the court house. Pres., Mrs. C. E. Holman; S. V. P., E. C. Becker; J. V. P., Mrs. L. A. Patton; sec., Mrs. Nellie Kennedy; treas., Mrs. Lavina Hudson.

*Mason City Camp No. 2, Sons of Veterans*—Meets the first of each month on call of Commander. Commander, E. V. Franke; sec., G. L. Elliott; treas., I. W. Kurl.

*Company A. I. N. G.*—In the month of May, 1873, a military company was organized in Mason City under the name of the Ellsworth Zouaves with 43 men. The officers were: S. B. Dexter, captain; H. G. Shockey, first lieutenant; W. W. Jones, second lieutenant. The company was afterward reorganized and became a part of the regular militia of the state, as Company H, 6th Regiment I. N. G. The company was first called out in the summer of 1877, when it was ordered to Plymouth to protect the people of that town against a turbulent gang of 275 tramps. Sometime later the company was changed from H, to A, of the 6th regiment. In 1878, the company built their armory. In 1894 Company A, was again called into service; this time it was ordered to Sioux City to aid in keeping order during the strike riot at that place. At the breaking out of the Spanish-American war, the company furnished the nucleus for Company A, of the 56th Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was ordered to the concentration and training camp at Chickamauga, where it remained until the close of the war. After its muster out, it was again organized as a militia company, under the title of Company A, 56th Regiment, I. N. G. It meets every Monday evening at the armory. The present commissioned officers are: John A. Stewart, captain; C. F. Helbig, first lieutenant; Ory Gorman, second lieutenant.

#### CLUBS AND CLUB LIFE

Clubs are organized for different purposes; for business purposes, for improvement, entertainment or simple amusement. In Mason City there are clubs belonging to all of these categories. To the first belong such clubs as the Commercial Club, the Mason City Driving Club, etc. To the second category belong a majority of the Woman's Clubs, such as the Maria Mitchell Club, the Monday Club, the Equal Suffrage Club, the Sorosis Club, the Twentieth Century Club, the Child Study Club, the Tourist Club, the Occident Club, the Mothers Union Club, the Clio Club, the Busy Bee Club, the Mothers Club and the Teachers Club. To the third category belong the Penelope Club, the Needle Club, the Weso Club and the Midland Club. To the fourth category, belong the

Eight to Ten Club, the "Linger-Longer" Club, and the "Four-Four" Club among the Women's Clubs, and the Elks Club, the Eagles, etc., among the male organizations.

In 1899 the more prominent of the Woman's Clubs formed an organization known as the Federation of Women's Clubs of Mason City, with a membership of about two hundred.

The first Woman's Club to be organized in the city, was the Maria Mitchell Club, in 1879, nearly a generation ago. The purpose of this club was to promote studies in history, literature or art, according as the members might choose in making out each annual program. The club meets once each week during the eight months from October to May of each year.

About 1882, another Women's Club was organized under the name of the Monday Club. The course of studies pursued by this club have covered a wide range and have included art literature, science, history, philosophy and psychology. The meetings of this club are, as its name indicates, held on Monday of each week during the club year.

The Equal Suffrage Club was, as its name indicates, organized for the purpose of promoting the cause of "Woman's Suffrage," primarily, and along industrial, civic and political lines as a necessary adjunct to the main purpose of the club. Its influence has been felt in local questions pertaining to both civic and, more especially, moral issues.

The Sorosis Club was organized in 1888. The main purpose of this club is, apparently, that of pursuing studies in literary criticism, as the themes to be discussed and studied are confined to Hawthorne in his "Marble Fawn" and Marion Crawford through his "Ave Roma."

In 1895 the 20th Century Club was organized. It was essentially a young woman's club and the purpose seems to have been a combined one of social pleasure and mental improvement. Their studies have been such as might be expected of an organized group of bright, earnest young women, and have ranged through history literature, art and music. As these young women of 1895 have grown older, their studies have gradually broadened and deepened and become more practical. It is at present known as the Chauqua Club.

The Child Study Club was organized in 1897. Its name indicates sufficiently its ends and purposes, which are of the highest, noblest and best.



By 1898 many of the people of Mason City had begun to travel abroad in the world and return with tales of other lands and places, and these travelers stories had begun to awaken an interest, as they ever have, in the minds of those who still tarried at home. This condition of affairs finally resulted in the formation of the "Tourists Club." The purpose of the club is, in the main, that of "subjective" travel by means of studies of other lands and places, as well as objective travel by its members and the narrative of those travels together with comments on the same. It is apparently a married women's club, as provision is made for occasions when the husbands are invited.

In 1898 a company of young girls banded together for study and to perpetuate early friendships. They decided to be called the Occident Club. They have chosen as their study lives of great men, taken the Bay View Course, traveled in Japan, read Shakespeare, completed the Northwestern biblical course, and this past summer, completed Tennyson's "Idyls of the King." Their club has pursued "Household Economies," demonstrating the lessons. Without depreciation of the other clubs, one cannot help commending the Occident Club.

The "Mothers Union" was organized in 1899. The name is sufficiently suggestive to obviate the necessity for descriptive comment. It is in the highest degree commendable. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. There is really nothing worth while but our mothers.

Among the bright and useful clubs is the Clio, organized in 1903 by young women who, not satisfied with mere school education, wished to continue their studies. They not only study history, art, literature and science, but, being still young, at each session there is conversation on lighter as well as the serious subjects of life, and being sensible and practical, they give demonstrations in the culinary art.

The Busy Bees Club, is a mixed organization so far as sex is concerned, being composed of both men and women. It is essentially practical in its purposes, and undoubtedly accomplishes much good along the chosen line of its activities.

The Midland is a social club composed of good women who pursue a course of reading which cements and furnishes a common interest.

Through the efforts of interested Mothers and Teachers, clubs have been organized to co-operate in everything that pertains to the best good of the child and the school. Here the interest is

keen; topics which are alive to the present need are discussed and decisions made as to the better way to develop the growing boy and girl—our coming man and woman.

There are several other clubs whose membership is made up of those of the female sex, which do not pretend to serious or laborious purpose but the reverse. These are typically feminine in their character. Here the humdrum duties and dull cares of life are laid aside and the light heart holds sway. These are "Eight to Ten," the "Linger-Longer" and "Four-Four" clubs, and there may be others of like nature.

From the unromantic and practical standpoint of mere masculinity, the Penelope, the Needle and the Weso clubs are, perhaps the, best of all, for at these ladies get together and have a sociable time with their haphazard talk over the latest, most interesting topics, their knitting, their crochet work and their sewing and before all is over and adjournment is taken, there are good things to eat.

We have given considerable space to the "Women's" Clubs of Mason City partly because they are of intrinsic merit and partly because in writing even a county history, men, by occupying the surface of affairs, come in for what is really more than their share of notice, and women, whose life and influence, while less obvious, are none the less potent, are, from the nature of the case, in a manner overlooked. In olden days the armed knight rode forth to redress the wrongs of the world. The knight was not born in the flower of manhood, sitting his great war horse, clothed in armor, with couchant lance. In his father's castle his lady mother, from his cradle to his youth had patiently and steadfastly instilled into his receptive boyish mind the traits she admired in manhood and these were comeliness of person, mind and manner, of strength and courage of mind and body, of manliness and honor and honor is truth and honesty. And the knight rode forth the teachings of his mother a lamp to his feet and the approbation of his lady a lode star to his wanderings; The Galahads, the Sidneys, the Bayards, the Godfreys, the Raymonds, the Rolands and the Olivers, rode forth to the Holy Land, Spain and over all the world, wherever the infidel oppressed the Christian, wherever the wrong oppressed the right, wherever the strong oppressed the weak. The brave knight with lance and pennant rode forth into history and song and story, and the brave knights' mother and his "ladye faire," have slept in their crypts in quiet peace and ob-

security these thousand years. And yet, no true history of the days "when knighthood was in flower" can be written unless we explore the nursery and boudoir and learn their secrets, for there was the creative and guiding hand and inspiration of the hero, whose valorous and courtly deeds in camp and court, in castle hall and peasant's cottage, at joust and tournament and on bloody field, have been recorded by history, folklore and the minstrel's inspired song. In Old Mason City and in New Mason City men have fared forth to do the work of men in war and peace and the deeds of these men have been written down as the history of the city. And yet, the real, the true, the whole history of the city will not be written until we have gone back of the man in action to the man in the making; have found the creator of his ideals, bent and motive, the guide to his conduct and the inspiration behind his actions. To do that we must go to the unrecorded women of the city, to the mothers, the wives and the sweethearts.

#### THE CITY LIBRARY.

At an early day some of the people of Mason City established a town library. Precisely who these unknown yet public spirited benefactors were or at what date they performed their good work, has escaped the knowledge of the historian. It must have been at some time prior to 1876 that this town library was first established, as it was in April, 1876, that the City Library Association was organized. Before that time the library was under the management of some society other than the town or city. At this time such books and property as belonged or appertained to the library were turned over to the city on condition that there should be an annual addition made to the library of the value of not less than \$100. At the time of this assignment to the new city library association the old library contained several hundred dollars worth of books. At the following city election the proposition was accepted by a vote of the people and the tax payers were thereafter assessed for the support of the library. Then there came an apparent interregnum of some sort, as in 1888 it seems a new library association was formed by a number of public spirited women who with the books of the old library and several donations of new books started the nucleus of the present library. Its first home was in



the old Loyd building on the east side of Main street between Fourth and Fifth streets. Miss Mary A. Hurlburt was the first librarian of the new library. The women who had taken the new enterprise in hand worked right loyally in its behalf, soliciting cash subscriptions, donations of new books, giving entertainments and dinners for the raising of funds. In 1892 the association purchased a building on East State street. This was the home of the library for eight years.

In 1893 a library tax of one mill was voted, the building was deeded to the city and the affairs of the library turned over to a



PUBLIC LIBRARY, MASON CITY.

corporation. In 1895 a change in the law placed the control of the library fund in the hands of a board of nine trustees appointed by the mayor. In 1899 the librarian, Miss Hurlburt died and was succeeded by the present librarian, Mrs. Anna H. Chapin. Miss Hurlburt was a woman of estimable character and rare qualifications for the service in which she had labored so successfully and loved so well for so many years. The city was exceedingly fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Chapin as a successor to her sister.

In the summer of 1899 the library was for the first time catalogued and organized in accordance with the rules of the State



Library Association, and the classification and card system adopted. On July 17, 1900, the library building and many of the books were injured by fire. The library was removed to a commodious dwelling house situated on the present site. This site was purchased and the present building erected. The building was the gift of Andrew Carnegie, who donated \$25,000 on condition that the city donate a proper site. The conditions were complied with and the building erected. This building was completed in 1904, but the formal opening did not occur until January 10, 1905, which was followed in the evening by dedication services at the opera house.

Mason City is said, by those most competent to judge, to have one of the most beautiful, homelike and convenient libraries in the state.

#### MASON CITY SCHOOLS.

The first school in Mason City was taught by Mrs. Lizzie Thompson in 1856. The school was held in a log house owned by John B. Long.

In this year of grace, 1910, Mason City has six large, modern school buildings and preparations are being made for the erection of the seventh. Three of these buildings are heated from an independent plant located on the square occupied by the Central and Grammar school buildings. All of the school buildings are supplied with automatic heating and ventilating appliances. In the number, size, cost and character of its school buildings; in appliances and equipment; in ensemble and personnel of the teaching force supplied; Mason City stands, as from its size, possibility and leadership it should stand, at the head of the cities and towns within a radius of one hundred miles, in its school system. It assumed that position in 1872 when it erected by far the largest, and at that time the most expensive and best equipped public school building in the state, and it has never faltered, never lost step, never merely marked time in the forward march of progress from that time to the present. It still forms the vanguard of the grand army of public school education in one of the richest, most prosperous and best educated regions of the middle west.

The cornerstone of the Central School building was laid July 4, 1872, with imposing ceremonies. The principal address was

delivered by Professor Moulton, one of the strongest men, intellectually, ever a citizen of the county, and at that time superintendent of the county schools. Each member of the school board, and teacher gave expression to some appropriate sentiment as his or her turn came to take the trowel. A tin box containing the following articles was placed within the stone: A copy of the school laws of Iowa; a copy of the *Express* newspaper; a copy of the current court calendar; Prof. Moulton's address; a silver half dollar each from Messrs. Sanborn, Tiffany and Tuttle, and an express package, contents unknown, from A. J. Benton.

Two years later, October 19, 1874, the building was formally dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The Mason City cornet band opened by an overture which was followed by "Crowned with the Tempest" by Prof. Huntley's trained choir. Prof. Gilchrist delivered the dedicatory address, after which A. B. Tuttle, on behalf of the school board, presented the magnificent building in a formal manner to the people of Mason City and to posterity. The response in behalf of the people was made by Judge Edwin Flint. The building is three lofty stories in height besides a basement and a cupola surmounted by a flagstaff. It was built of stone from the local quarries, at a cost of \$30,000, which for those days was looked upon as a state-wide wonder in the way of expenditure for a public school building and would in the present day of larger things, still be considered creditable even in the capital of our state.

The present High School building is one of the best of its kind and purpose in the state. It was built and equipped in 1904 at an approximate cost of \$80,000. It is of modern design and equipment throughout. In addition to the large and magnificent assembly room and the dozen large class rooms, it has a manual training department, a physical laboratory, chemical laboratory and a laboratory of natural science; also a splendid gymnasium. All of the laboratories are completely equipped with modern apparatus. In 1909 a domestic science department was installed. This department is equipped in modern fashion. One hundred and eighty-five girls are taking lessons in practical cooking and sewing.

Three courses of study are offered in the school: classical, scientific and English. The school has accredited standing in all colleges and universities belonging to the North Central Association, an organization embracing the leading colleges and universi-

ties in the following states: Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, North and South Dakota, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wisconsin and Michigan. Recently special accredited standing was extended by Chicago University, by which affiliation, graduates from the Mason City High School are admitted to this institution upon certification of graduation, no entrance examinations being required. Many students from the rural schools and small towns nearby attend the high school every year.

Following is a tabulated list of Mason City schools, together with information concerning them:

Building	Date of Building	Cost	No. of Pupils
High School	1904	\$80,000	350
Grant (remodeled)	1907	22,000	300
Garfield (remodeled)	1900	24,000	325
Washington	1892	20,000	350
Central	1874	30,000	400
Grammar	1895	20,000	150

To meet the rapidly growing demands for more school room, taxes were recently voted to the amount of nearly \$40,000 for the building of a new school building in the northern part of the city and for the purchase of land for an extension of the High School building.

The following is a comparison of the enrollment for the four years beginning with the school year 1905-6 and ending with 1908-9: 1905-6, 1,668; 1906-7, 1,760; 1907-8, 2,004; 1908-9, 2,209.

The enrollment for the school year 1909-10 is showing a large increase and will approximate 2,500 by the time it is completed.

#### MASON CITY CHURCHES.

The Baptist church of Mason City was organized November 17, 1866, with ten members: Amos Dunham and wife, John Keller and wife, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Miller, Harriet Tuttle, Nella Tuttle, Mr. Rennils and wife. Amos Dunham was chosen as the first deacon and John Keller as first church clerk. The society chose for its name "The First Regular Baptist Church of Mason City." Rev. George W. Freeman of the Home Missonary Society acted as moderator of the meeting at which the church was organized. The

meeting was held in the old stone school house in Mason City. In 1874 a building committee composed of Messrs. Tuttle, Wheeler, Glass, Walting and Brown was appointed. Nothing definite was done, however, until 1876, when lots were purchased and the foundation for a church edifice put in. Soon after the church was built at a cost of \$5,300. The Sunday school was organized in 1870, in the old stone school house, with J. G. Brown as the first superintendent. This first church building was a frame structure and was burned down in the winter of 1894. It was replaced by the present brick structure a few years later. The present membership of the church is 450. The present pastor is Rev. R. R. Kennan.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized March 8, 1857, by the following named members: Elisha Randall and wife and daughter, Mrs. John B. Long, Mrs. George Brentner, Timothy Parker and wife, Alfred Taylor and wife, N. M. Adams and wife. Rev. Freeman was the first pastor and this first quarterly meeting was held March 15, 1857. The society held services for some time in the loft of John L. McMillen's store and afterwards in the old stone school house. In 1872 a brick edifice was built just east of the present court house. In 1894 the present fine stone edifice was erected at a cost approximating \$40,000. The First M. E. church of Mason City is at present presided over by Rev. W. W. Carlton.

Besides the above, there are in the city two other Methodist churches, namely, the Free Methodist church, pastor, Rev. Sarah A. Hall; and the German Methodist church, pastor, Rev. C. A. Schuldt. These are both small, though zealous organizations.

The Congregational church was organized March 7, 1858, under the directions of Rev. Thomas Tenney of Plymouth, who as missionary of the American Home Missionary Society, had held Masonic Grove as one of his preaching points since 1855. For the first ten years preaching was held in private houses, school houses and occasionally in the court house, but, in 1868, a church edifice was erected and served the purpose of the congregation for thirty years, or until 1898, when the present commanding structure was erected. The first members were Nathiel Adams, Emma Adams, Emma E. Adams, Charles M. Adams, Simon Van Potter, L. J. Huntley, Lucy Temple, Elizabeth Dibble, Jane E. Garner, T. Green, Eleanor Florence. The present membership is 600 and the present pastor, Rev. C. E. Tower.



The Catholic church of Mason City was organized in 1864. Previous to this time there had been occasional Catholic services held in private houses. In 1870 the erection of a church edifice was begun and finished in 1871. The building committee was composed of only two men, Daniel J. Farrell and Thomas Egan, but they were brave fighters and tireless workers and the Catholic church of Mason City owes these two men a debt it can scarcely repay. The first trustees were: Timothy Dwan, John Griffin and William Usher. This first building cost about \$2,000, a large sum considering all the circumstances. Rev. Feely, a missionary priest located at Charles City, is also entitled to much credit for aid in the building of this first church. To Very Reverend Dean Carolan, who took charge of the church in the '70s is due in a large measure, the building of the present large and beautiful church edifice of St. Joseph's church. Rev. Carolan is still in charge assisted by Rev. Malloy.

In December, 1908, the Mason City parish was divided and a new parish organized in north Mason City with Rev. E. J. Dougherty in charge. Through the efforts of Rev. Dougherty the church edifice of the Holy Family church was erected at a cost of \$11,000. Rev. Dougherty, a son of Hon. Daniel Dougherty of Dougherty, is the pastor in charge.

The Episcopal church organized a society in Mason City some time during the later seventies. The first pastor of which we have a record and possibly the first regular pastor in regular charge, was Rev. William L. Eastbrook, who took charge in 1882. The present church edifice was built during the '80s. The present rector is Rev. A. C. Kaye. The present membership is 134.

The Presbyterian church of Mason City was organized February 28, 1905. The first pastor was Rev. W. S. Crozier. The cornerstone of the present church edifice was laid with appropriate ceremonies, August 8, 1908, and the new church was dedicated in the December following. The present pastor is Rev. L. C. Cooley. Present membership 100.

The Lutherans have two congregations and two church buildings in the city, namely, the St. James Lutheran church at 702 East Miller street and Trinity Lutheran church at 608 Rawlins street. The pastor at St. James church is Rev. G. H. Lorch. The membership is 350. The pastor of Trinity Lutheran church is Rev. G. G. Belsheim. Membership 425.

The Seventh Day Adventists have an organization, but no settled pastor and no church building.

The Salvation Army barracks are located at 311 South Main street, with Ensign T. H. Hoos in charge.

The Christian Scientists organized a society in Mason City sometime during the latter part of the last century, but did not have a church edifice until within the last few years. Their church is located at 119 West Eighth street. The first reader is Mrs. L. E. Markley; second reader, M. A. Fulton.

The Christian church was first organized in 1891, but was for several years without any church building of its own. During this period the society met in different places, in public halls, at the Parker's Opera House, etc. The society kept growing and in 1892 definite steps were taken towards the erection of a church edifice. This was completed in 1893. Since then the church has been remodeled and enlarged, until at present it is one of the finest church edifices in the city. Rev. Johnson was pastor at the time the new church was built and continued in charge for several years after that event. The present membership of the Christian church is 800. The present pastor in charge is Rev. Charles Devoe.

Each year a number of Mormon missionaries appear on the streets and preach the doctrine of the Latter Day Saints, with what effect is not apparent.

#### PARKS.

When John B. Long and his confreres platted Mason City, they set off a whole block and marked it on the plat, "public square" or "park." At the time Long was about the only man who had faith in the coming reign of the "Queen of the Midland." He was the only man who saw, or saw with clear, unerring vision; the only one who "Looked into the future far as human eye could see, saw the years of glory coming, and all the wonder that would be." The square was deeded to the city. A few years later, after Long had left the country, a disappointed man, two or three men, having in view certain possible future contingencies followed Long to Missouri and secured from him a "quit-claim" to whatever title he retained in the dedicated land. There is some dispute as to the nature of Long's grant, some claiming that it was condi-

tioned on the perpetual use of the land for "public purposes;" others claim it was to be used forever as a "park" on penalty of forfeiture and reversion; others claim there is nothing at all in the record to show the grant other than an unconditional grant to the city. In any event, there can be little question about the title possessed by the city to the land now occupied by our beautiful Central Park. In 1909 a park commission was created with power to provide new parks and with the duty of caring for existing parks. The practical value of this commission is still, in a great measure, to be tried out. Its labors so far have consisted in making some needed improvements in the Central Park and in purchasing a tract of land in the east part of the city for park purposes.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Among the public buildings of Mason City the Cerro Gordo county court house should probably be given the place of honor and placed at the head of the list. It is an imposing structure built of native stone, standing on the highest land for a long distance in every direction. The style of its architecture is imposing rather than beautiful and its appearance grows in favor on the sight with longer association. Its location, facing the park from an eminence at the north, adds a beauty and impressiveness to the whole ensemble which the architecture of the building, taken by itself, could not impart.

The next in importance of the public buildings of Mason City is the Memorial University, an institution dedicated to the memories of the soldiers of the Civil war and operating under the auspices of the Sons of Veterans of the United States. The original idea of such an institution is generally accredited to Col. A. L. Sorter, himself the son of a soldier of the Civil war. Col. Sorter first enlisted the interest and effort of his father-in-law, H. E. Francisco, and eventually the whole population, of Mason City. One of the most important factors, however, in the early development of the project was the personality of Hon. James E. Blythe, also a member of the Sons of Veterans. Mr. Blythe's diplomatic ability and wide acquaintance enabled him to accomplish a work for the incipient university which no other local person could have accomplished. It was chiefly through Mr. Blythe's efforts that the school was adopted by and placed under the auspices

of the National Order of the Sons of Veterans. The school which has been established and which has been in operation for a number of years, is rather of a high grade academic character than collegiate. The school is growing, however, in both efficiency and reputation and there is more than mere promise, there is practical assurance, that the academy of today will become the true university planned for and dreamed of by its founders.

Only the main building of the future university has as yet been built and this as regards size and interior design will undoubtedly answer all of the demands of many future generations. The architectural effect of this large and imposing structure is



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, MASON CITY.

rather one of solitary grandeur and somber impressiveness than of beauty. A part of this effect is no doubt due to the location of the building, but not altogether. When the small trees which are to furnish future shade and adornment to the campus shall have grown and when the now lonely and solitary temple of learning shall be surrounded and complemented by other suitable buildings, there can be no doubt but the effect on the vision will be greatly modified. But that time will only come when the children of the present students are themselves students.

The Mason City Library building in its appearance to the eye, loses something in spectacular effect from lack of a height



proportionate to its ground dimensions. This lack of height in the building itself, however, is partially atoned for by the elevation of its base above the level of the street. The environments and the immediate setting of the building are both favorable so far as the general view is concerned. The edifice is located at the summit of an artificial eminence, which, while of no great height, is still sufficient to require the use of an effective broad stairway of stone leading upward from the street to the pillared portico and entrance. The wide green lawn surrounding the building contains ornamental shrubbery and shade trees, and there are no loftier buildings in the immediate vicinity. On the whole the view of the library building from State street is creditably impressive and the building invariably attracts the attention and creates inquiry on the part of visiting strangers.

If the library building suffers somewhat in spectacular effect from lack of proportionate height, the federal postoffice building suffers infinitely more from the same cause. In fact it may be said with truth that from an architectural point of view, spectacular effect passes the vanishing point in the case of the Mason City postoffice building. Its ground dimensions are about one hundred and fifty feet in length by over sixty feet in width. In height it rises but a single story, besides a basement. It is a lofty story to be sure, but the fact remains that it is but one story in height and while it is commodious, wisely designed and superb in its appointments and furnishings and interior finish and while its materials both exterior and interior are of the highest quality, the postoffice building is not only without architectural beauty but it barely escapes being ugly. It is certainly plain and unimposing.

There is one other public building to be mentioned which, although outside of the city limits, is still credited to Mason City. This is the Odd Fellows Orphans' Home. In addition to real architectural beauty, this building has many accessory advantages which greatly increase the spectacular effect. It possesses not only a pleasing general environment, but a beautiful setting and location. Its general environment is that of a spacious country landscape composed of lush meadows, close cropped pasture lands and grain fields intersected by running streams and shady lanes and country roads. It is located on the summit of a gently sloping eminence which, in spring and summer and autumn is green with grass and dotted here and there with the blue and scarlet and pink and white and purple and gold of the flowers that

bloom in the country places. In front there is open space but to the rear and stretching away on each flank are many trees, beautifying the landscape and affording shade, while at the same time adding to the charming scenic efforts. Taking in the whole ensemble, the building with its Greek portico, the green sloping eminence, the trees and the country landscape, one thinks of Pan, a beautiful pagan temple set in a Greek landscape of ancient Hellas.

The purpose of the building is to afford a home and education for the orphan children of members of the Fraternity of Odd Fellows. Those possessed of this knowledge are undoubtedly favorably influenced in judging of the beauty and charm of the



architecture and setting of the building known as the Odd Fellows Orphans' Home, for association always lends interest and creates prejudice favorable or unfavorable and therefore warps the judgment for or against, according as the associations are pleasing or otherwise. The otherwise plain old farm home, because of its associations, is beautiful in the retrospect of the homesick exile; the Parthenon would lose half its beauty if we did not know its history.

We have in another place given the names of the city council for the current year. In this place we will give the names and titles of the other city officers.

*Police Department*—City magistrates, W. S. Rankin, A. L. Kimball; chief of police, Thomas Lock; desk sergeant, John Willer; patrolmen, Wm. Spaight, J. H. Thraves, Menno Snider, C. M. Sage, F. J. Campbell.

*Fire Department*—Chief, Thomas Connor; captain, Joseph Wilson; driver, James Kelley; plugman, Gustaff May; pipeman, Jacob Werle.

It is the privilege of the prophet to indulge in forecasts of the future; it is the duty of the historian to write of the past. The duty is done, for good or ill, so far as the historian is concerned and the story of Cerro Gordo county and Mason City has been told. We leave to the prophet the exercise of his privilege.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### ROCKWELL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

QUOTATION FROM PITTSBURG DISPATCH—ORGANIZATION OF ROCKWELL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY—FIRST OFFICERS—EARLY DIFFICULTIES—FIGHT AGAINST THE POWERFUL CORPORATIONS—VICTORY—REASONS FOR SUCCESS—MR. McMANUS GIVES CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE—STATE ASSOCIATION—REASONS FOR STATE ORGANIZATION—ITS SUCCESS.

*By Thomas McManus.*

“If you are troubled by the economic and social problems of the present, if you want to renew your faith in triumphant Democracy, if you want to see what common men can do in the face of the greatest obstacles, if you want to believe in the social and economic redemption of the world, ask the conductor of the Iowa Central Railway to put you off at Rockwell, Iowa. You may wonder why it is worth while for a student or a specialist to spend a day in this little village of the plains. You will find upon examination that it is a clean city. You may notice that there are a large number of good dwellings and very few shanties or shacks. If it happens to be the fourth of July and you have brought any whisky with you and get drunk you will be lonesome for these people celebrate the fourth of July without that luxury. It is a very dry town and yet only incidentally a temperance town. If you happen to be in the town on a certain day in March you will see five or six hundred farmers gathered together in their annual town meeting, and you may be struck with the appearance of those men, who wear their hats on the back of their heads, and have a twinkle in their eyes as much as to say we are the people. They have a very good right to the assumption for those Celtic and Teutonic farmers have written a new declaration of independence, and after sixteen years of warfare have won economic and social



peace. Their enemies have not recognized their independence but they have ceased firing, their guns are now silent. The story of those farmers is a story of common people determined to have some measure of freedom from economic injustice. Those Rockwell farmers after a bitter experience, declare that the middleman is always an instrument of injustice against the buyer and the seller; anyhow he was at least so in Rockwell. He was the sole judge of the value of his own services as a transferer of goods to and from the farmer."

The above quotation is taken from an article written by the well known economist George L. McNutt of Pittsburg, Pa., and published in *The Pittsburg Dispatch* after a visit he had made to The Rockwell Society. On a bleak day in March, 1889, this society was organized; with these people organization was a necessity. The child, figuratively speaking, was born of necessity, injustice was its father. While the trusts were not so numerous in those days the grain dealers were organized in this locality with headquarters in Mason City, where they met and held their regular meetings and fixed the price of grain in the local markets of the surrounding territory. If the prices in one market did not suit you, you might drive to another but the prices were practically the same, no competition. Those grain men figured to have from three to five cents per bushel of profit over and above a fair market price.

By agitation one hundred farmers were interested in four townships to take stock in shares of ten dollars each, no man to own more than ten shares, and only entitled to one vote. One thousand dollars was raised and a board of directors elected, the following being the names of the members of the first board: Hon. N. Densmore, president; L. E. McGilvra, vice president; James E. Treston, secretary, and F. McMullen treasurer. Directors: Andrew Johnston, Fred Doderer, W. F. Clark, H. F. Hardman, William Barragy, F. Deitrich, Thomas McManus, William Smith and C. H. Behr.

Immediately after the election of the board an elevator was purchased and T. L. Chappell elected manager. The first day they started out in business the price of grain was advanced by their competitors in the Rockwell market three cents per bushel, this being more than the farmers could pay and come out even. But their competitors started out with the prediction that in six months they would put the farmers out of business. Their manager stood appalled, he saw his own members drive their

grain to the other firm and take advantage of the advanced price. In this crisis he asked for a meeting of the board of directors, and was told by that body that it was immaterial whether he bought a bushel of grain or not, so long as he kept prices where they belonged, and the farmers received the benefit of the advanced prices. It may be asked here how they could afford to pay a manager and keep up expenses if the business all went to the other firm. In answer would say, they have a clause in their by-laws which makes it obligatory on members to pay a certain percentage into their own treasury on all business they may do outside of their own elevator, that is on goods which they handle. This they call a commission, or protection clause. If it were not for this no farmers elevator could run six months in competition with line elevators and unscrupulous competitors.

This society, being one of the first societies of the kind organized in Iowa, it seemed that all dealers engaged in the same line of business were up in arms against it with a determination to crush it in its infancy, and drive it out of business. Among those who opposed it I would name Felthouse Bros., The John Paul Lumber Company, The Kansas City Grain Company, The Iowa Agricultural Implement Dealers, The Lamb Lumber Company, and last but not least, The Iowa Grain Dealers Association, all of whom the society has been in close competition with, but has withstood their attacks, and overcome their opposition, opposition not always the most honorable. One by one, they have given up the fight sold out their business, only to be succeeded by others who renewed the battle, some of whom in competing with the farmers at Rockwell and other similar organizations went into bankruptcy, and are now things of the past. Today the society are masters of the situation and in the words of George L. McNutt, "enjoy a season of social and economic peace."

It would seem the more opposition this society encountered the stronger it grew. Starting out in 1889 with a capital of \$1,000 and a membership of one hundred, now, after running twenty years, they have increased their capital to \$43,000 and their membership at one time numbering 600, with a steadily increasing business as follows: in 1889, the first year, the business transacted by this society amounted to \$145,000; in 1895, \$219,000; 1896, \$251,000; 1898, \$365,000; 1899, \$545,000, and in 1901, \$625,000, all of which has been transacted at an expense of less than one per cent. Members will tell you, that they save from \$50 to \$100 a

year in dealing at their own elevator instead of outside, to say nothing of dividends which are hardly ever considered, and yet are no small share of the profits. At the close of their twentieth year, which occurred in March, 1909, the society paid the shareholders in dividends, \$261.15 on each share of \$10 stock invested in the business, leaving sufficient funds in the treasury to reincorporate and run the business on a much larger scale. We read of no other company in the country of its kind that has achieved the success of this company, and but one in the old world that has surpassed it, and that is The Co-operative Company of Rochdale England.

The experiment has been fortunate in the important essentials since its inception. It was founded on the theory that the farmers were enslaved to the former grain buyers, and that this was their emancipation. Aside from the plan upon which the society was founded there are a few other essentials which have helped in a great measure to work out the success of the society.

First, steering clear of clanishness, politics, religion, and nationality were kept in the back ground. Merit was acknowledged wherever found, rich and poor were used alike, there were no grades, no distinction.

Second, membership voting. The man able to own ten shares had no more voting power than the man who was able to own but one. Being the possessor of money does not betoken morality, uprightness, or brain power.

Third, a determination to achieve success and to succeed by straight forward honest dealing.

Fourth, publicity is both the corner and the keystone to co-operative success. Every member has the privilege of looking up the affairs of the association both as regards his own business, and the business of other having dealings with the society.

Unselfish co-operation makes good men, good Christians, and law-abiding citizens. Another grand feature of the institution was unswerving loyalty and devotion of its members to their own institution, without which any association of its kind will go down. It has also been fortunate in the selection of its officers, and management. There have been only two managers in its history, T. L. Chappell and F. Campbell its present manager. One of the things which would have easily wrecked the society has been hap-

pily averted, dishonest management. While the officers and members as a whole have worked and labored for the upbuilding of the society, and to promote its best interests, I trust I will not be accused of partiality when I say, that to the members of the first board of directors is due the credit of holding the society together, and steering it safely 'mid the shoals and breakers which threatened its destruction in the early years of its existence. To Hon. N. Densmore, its first president, much credit is due, who gave to the society his best thought and experience, and steered it safely through its most critical period. J. E. Treston, its first secretary, stayed with the society fourteen years and proved a most competent and efficient officer to fill the position. To William Barragy belongs the credit of agitating the feasibility of starting a co-operative society, he, and the late Charley Hants, selling the first shares of stock. Francis McMullen and William Smith, now dead, proved to be most valuable members. J. B. McGaheren, H. F. Hardman and the late Andrew Johnston, were pillars of strength to the society which could not be moved. And last but not least, J. H. Brown, their late and lamented president, proved to be a shrewd and conservative leader. While the writer does not claim any particular merit in the success of the society, and its wonderful growth, yet he feels that in his humble way he has given his best thought, and devoted twenty years of the best years of his life not alone in assisting to build up The Rockwell Society, but assisting others to organize and establish similar institutions all over the middle west and particularly in Iowa. The example set by The Rockwell Society was followed by others who wished to get out of the grasp of the grain trust, until there are today three hundred and twenty-five farmer grain companies in the state of Iowa, and more than three thousand of them in the grain belt states. Of the three hundred and twenty-five companies in Iowa about one hundred and sixty belong to the State Association. There are probably 60,000 farmers in the state of Iowa who own stock in co-operative companies. The property owned by the combined members of co-operation in this state will amount to more than \$600,000,000, while that invested in the business of co-operation will reach \$3,250,000. These three hundred and twenty-five companies will handle on an average crop, 65,000,000 bushels of Iowa's grain, and at the lowest possible estimate they save to the farmers two cents per bushel, or a grand total of \$1,300,000.



## THE STATE ASSOCIATION.

Perhaps the severest blow the co-operative movement ever got in the state of Iowa was in October, 1904, when George A. Wells, secretary of the Iowa Grain Dealers Association issued his memorable boycott in a circular letter to all the commission houses in Chicago, and other terminal points, warning them if they continued to receive shipments from farmer elevators they, the line companies, would withdraw their trade. This had the desired effect, and the farmers were virtually boycotted. At that time there were only about thirty farmer companies in Iowa while the line companies numbered over eight hundred. The grain from farmer elevators stood on the side track in Chicago for days without a buyer, as they could find but two commission houses in Chicago willing to receive their shipments, and those two firms were boycotted by the grain trust, and lost ninety-five per cent. of their business. This step aroused the lion in the breasts of the farmers of Iowa and they swore revenge. The younger societies appealed to The Rockwell Company for a remedy, and the remedy they gave them was to organize, telling them they must fight fire with fire. The plan was adopted and a meeting was called to Rockwell of all the grain companies in the state, then doing business, and thirty companies responded to the call and on the fourth day of November, 1904, The Farmers' Grain Dealers State Association was organized. This action lifted the boycott, and those very commission men, who refused their trade are now soliciting their business.

This association has in its treasury today \$2,000 and if needs be, will use it to maintain the rights of its members. I would like to mention a few of the successful companies in Cerro Gordo county and in the state but this article is already too lengthy. There are eight companies now in this county, all doing a good business among them is the Dougherty Company, which became famous by fighting the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in the Iowa legislature with a bill, in the endeavor to secure a site for their elevator. Perhaps one of the strongest companies in the state next to the Rockwell, is The Gowrie Company of Webster county, of which C. G. Messerole, secretary of the Farmers' Grain Dealers Association, is manager. The company was organized eight years ago with a paid up capital of \$4,500, capitalized at \$25,000, and has paid out in cash dividends \$2,000. Their difficulties have been

those in common with other companies, but Messerole led, and their members followed. The time spent, and the associations formed in the co-operative movement have been among the happiest days of my life, and if I should live to an age when my steps shall begin to totter, and my hair whitened with the frosts of many winters, I shall always look back with personal pride on my feeble efforts in doing the very best I could in promoting its ultimate success.















